

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**Mark Martin
reaps NASCAR's
financial rewards**

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after learning of
Marine son's death**

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at home in
'Garden State'**

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Volume 2, No. 139 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2004

Iraq's top Shiite cleric brokers peace deal

Plan calls for Najaf, Kufa to be weapons-free cities Page 3



Finishing strong

American women defeat Australia
for bronze in water polo

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That's more like it

U.S. men's basketball team starts
hitting shots in victory over Spain

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USA's Tim
Duncan
shoots
over
Spain's
Pau Gasol

Tomatoes fly in Spain

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Revelers on Wednesday lie in a river of tomato juice at the end of "La Tomatina," a tomato-throwing festival in the eastern Spanish town of Bunol. Some 36,000 people waged the hourlong food fight with 140 tons of fruit projectiles. The festival, held every year on the last Wednesday of August, is said to have started in the 1940s when a clutch of youths began throwing their lunch at each other one day in a downtown square.

AP

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Elian Gonzalez raid: A federal judge has thrown out a lawsuit claiming federal agents used excessive force in an armed raid to seize Elian Gonzalez at the home of his Miami relatives four years ago.

An order issued Monday by U.S. District Judge Marcia Cooke concluded the six agents who conducted the raid were legally immune to the lawsuit, and she found no constitutional violations.

Columbine parents: The parents of Columbine High School gunman Eric Harris are selling the house where the teen and his friend stored guns and bombs and videotaped themselves hatching plans for their deadly rampage.

Two Colorado real estate agents whose families were affected by the 1999 school shooting will not be allowed to show the property. Both men have criticized Wayne and Kathy Harris for not doing more to stop their son's deadly plan.

One of the banned agents, Rich Petrone, said he would like to see the house, referring to it as the "scene of a crime."

Petrone's stepson, Danny Rohrbough, was one of the 12 students killed by Harris and Dylan Klebold, who also killed a teacher before taking their own lives.

New York mosque leaders: Two upstate New York mosque leaders accused of supporting terrorism were released on bail Wednesday, one day after a federal judge reversed his initial decision to keep them behind bars.

Magistrate David Homer on Tuesday set bail at \$250,000 bond for both Yassin Muhidin Aref and Mohammed Mosharref Hossain after concluding the men were not as dangerous as prosecutors first claimed.

Homer denied the men bail two weeks ago. But he cited a translation error in a key piece of evidence and an apparently weaker government case in his decision to set bail Tuesday.

Charles Manson follower: Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten was denied parole for a 15th time Wednesday, just over 35 years after the notorious Tate-LaBianca murders.

"She was denied for an additional two years and the board ordered a new psychological evaluation for the next hearing," said Board of Prison Terms spokesman Bill Sessa.

Oregon same-sex marriages: An Oregon county that stopped issuing marriage licenses until a court could decide whether gay



Under construction: Workers build a house in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Efrat, south of Jerusalem. Meanwhile, on Thursday, Palestinians said Israeli forces were operating in the Rafah refugee camp on the Gaza-Egypt border, destroying houses. The Israeli military said an operation was underway against the "terrorist infrastructure" in the camp, and two abandoned structures used by militants to fire mortars and guns were destroyed.

marriage was legal has been told to again offer them to couples.

Senior Judge Wayne R. Harris ordered Benton County on Wednesday to resume issuing the licenses, saying officials had failed to provide a service. Although his order didn't specifically mention same-sex couples, officials expect licenses only will be given to marriages between a man and a woman.

The county stopped issuing licenses in April.

Kennedy Smith assault charge: A woman claims in a lawsuit that William Kennedy Smith, a member of the prominent Kennedy family, sexually assaulted her in 1999, and her lawyer said Thursday that she did not come forward at the time because she was intimidated by his wealth and connections.

Smith, a nephew of Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and cleared of rape charges in 1991, said his family and personal history made him a target for "outrageous" allegations. And the woman herself acknowledged having had a relationship with Smith some months after the alleged assault.

Business

Enron financial records: Newly released audiotapes and financial records show that Enron Corp. profited from emergency Northwest hydropower sent to California during the summer of 2000 by selling some

of the energy to the Southwest.

The Aug. 4, 2000, conversation between Enron trader Thyr Belden and Rick Shapiro, an Enron executive, begun with Belden chuckling as he noted it was hot in California "and they don't have enough power. And they kill fish in the Northwest so that people in California can go enjoy themselves at a baseball game."

World

Asian bird flu: Chinese officials tried Thursday to deflect possible criticism of their decision not to publicize their discovery of the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain in pigs last year, calling them isolated cases that weren't a threat to humans.

The pigs carried a flu strain found in ducks rather than a new version that might be more dangerous to people, said Jia Youling, China's chief veterinary official. He said the pigs weren't considered sick and were quickly isolated.

Hamburg terror trial: A friend of a Moroccan charged with helping the Sept. 11, 2001, suicide pilots expressed a readiness to kill non-Muslims long before the attacks, a witness testified Wednesday.

Prosecutors at the retrial of Mounir el Mottassadeq hope testimony will show how closely the defendant was involved with the plotters and their discussions of holy war.

Stories and photo from wire reports

Corrections

▲ A story in Thursday's editions about a youth baseball tournament at Aviano Air Base, Italy, misidentified one of the tournament's organizers. He is Tech. Sgt. Bruce Bond.

▲ A story in Thursday's editions about the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment's record mileage recorded since it began convoy escort duties in Baghdad contained incorrect information. The unit, known as the Steel Dragons, passed the 500,000-mile landmark on Saturday.

Messages of Support

★ We love you and miss you! JJ misses you too! Mona and Nikki are wearing the buttons I had made with your picture on it. We are so proud of you and all the Soldiers fighting for our freedom. Love Mom, Dad, JJ, Jimmy, Kaitlyn, Amanda

proud I am of you, you are not only my hero but also America's hero! you mean everything in the world to me and more. come home safe! your doing a very courageous and selfless thing mike. Just know that when you come

★ Mike, I want you to know how

home ill be taking you up on your offer! i love you melissa b. (liss)

★ Dear Paulo, Alex and I hope you are doing fine. We miss you very much. Take Care. Un Beso Grande. We Love YOU! Carmen

Learn to keep your wallet
full from financial
advice and tips
in Stars and Stripes

Top Iraq cleric brokers Najaf peace deal

Plan calls for 2 weapons-free cities; mortar barrage kills 27 at mosque

By ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEIDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — Rebel cleric Muqtada al-Sadr agreed Thursday to a peace deal presented by Iraq's top Shiite cleric, who brought his enormous authority to bear in an attempt to end three weeks of fighting in the holy city of Najaf, a top al-Sistani aide said.

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the most influential cleric among Iraq's Shiite majority, reached the deal in direct talks with al-Sadr in the evening, only hours after making a dramatic return to Najaf.

Aides have said that al-Sistani's peace plan calls for Najaf and Kufa to be declared weapons-free cities, for all foreign forces to withdraw from Najaf and leave security to the police, and for the government to compensate those harmed by the fighting.

"Mr. Muqtada al-Sadr agreed to the initiative of his eminence al-Sistani," said Hamed al-Khafaf, a top al-Sistani aide. "You will hear good news soon from the government and Mr. Muqtada al-Sadr."

"It's the same initiative that we had proposed — almost the same initiative has been agreed upon," al-Khafaf said.

Thousands of Iraqis had fled to Najaf in answer to al-Sadr's call Wednesday for a peace march, but the Iraqi government's police did not let them enter the holy city.

Late Thursday, al-Sistani asked the government to allow them to visit the Imam Ali Shrine compound provided they leave by 10 a.m. Friday, al-Khafaf said. Al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia is still holding the shrine and has used it as a stronghold since fighting with U.S. forces began on Aug. 5.

U.S. and Iraqi troops and al-Sadr's fighters called for a cease-fire after al-Sistani's arrival — but the bloodshed that has torn apart the holy city continued right up until the grand ayatollah entered Najaf.

More than 90 people were killed in the preceding 24 hours, according to the Health Ministry — including 27 people killed



U.S. Army soldiers guard an outpost Thursday in an office complex in central Najaf, Iraq. A cease-fire was called in the afternoon while demonstrators marched through the city. Grand Ayatollah Ali Hussein al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shiite cleric, made a dramatic return to the city to broker a peace deal.

when mortars hit the main mosque in nearby Kufa, where thousands had gathered in preparation to march to Najaf in support of al-Sistani.

The U.S. military and Iraqi government have backed al-Sistani's peace mission, but they have not said whether they would agree to his proposal's provisions.

Al-Sadr has agreed to peace deals at least twice previously, but the agreements have fallen apart and fighting resumed.

But all signs appear to be hoping the immense authority of al-Sistani can keep a deal together. The 75-year-old al-Sistani, who has long refused to intervene directly in the standoff between al-Sadr and U.S. troops, has much wider support among Iraq's Shiites than al-Sadr, a much younger and lower-ranking cleric.

Al-Sistani was in London for medical treatment for most of the time since the fighting broke out Aug. 5. As he returned to Iraq, he and his followers to march on Najaf for peace.

Al-Sistani arrived Thursday in a 30-vehicle convoy that drove in from Basra, cheered by thou-

sands of supporters in towns along the way. Heeding al-Sistani's calls, thousands more came from their hometowns to Najaf and gathered on its outskirts.

Thousands of Shiites had gathered at the mosque in Kufa, an al-Sadr stronghold, to march to Najaf when the mortar rounds hit — one inside the mosque compound and around two others at the main gate, according to witnesses.

"This is a criminal act. We just wanted to launch a peaceful demonstration," said Hani Hashem, bringing an injured friend to the hospital.

The blasts killed 27 people and wounded 63, according to Mohammed Abdul Kadhim, an official at Furat al-Awsat hospital in Kufa.

Blood was splattered on the pavement in a courtyard beside the mosque and a pair of sandals was left nearby, according to Associated Press Television News footage. Shrapnel from the explosions tore chunks out of walls and the pavement, but the compound did not appear to have suffered serious structural damage.

Outside the hospital's gate,

crowds of angry people gathered, shouting "God is great!"

After the attack, thousands of demonstrators loyal to al-Sadr marched on nearby Najaf but came under fire from a base between the two cities housing Iraqi national guardsmen and U.S. troops, witnesses said.

The marchers scattered when the gunfire broke out. The day before, gunfire from the same base killed eight people and wounded 56 who were taking part in what appeared to be a peaceful demonstration supporting al-Sadr.

Another mortar attack in Kufa on Wednesday, apparently targeting a police checkpoint, killed two civilians, including a boy, 8.

Al-Sadr aide Hussam al-Husseini blamed the mortar attack on American forces backing Iraqi troops in the city. "We held the interim government responsible for this bombing," he said.

A U.S. military spokesman, Marine Capt. Carrie Batson, denied the Americans fired the barrage, saying troops were still avoiding targeting holy sites in Kufa and Najaf.

One U.S. military official,

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, 964 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 722 died as a result of hostile action and 242 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths: Italy, 138; Spain, 11; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations had ended, 826 U.S. servicemen have died — 613 as a result of hostile action and 213 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers Wednesday.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A servicemember was killed Wednesday in a vehicle accident near Tikrit.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Robert C. Thornton, 35, of Rainbow City, Ala., died Monday in a grenade attack in Baghdad, assigned to the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

speaking on condition of anonymity, it said it was possible that rebels firing at nearby Iraqi National Guard positions overshot their target and hit the mosque.

In other violence, saboteurs attacked about 20 oil pipelines in southern Iraq late Wednesday, reducing exports from the key oil-producing region by at least a half, an official with the state-run South Oil Co. said Thursday on condition of anonymity.

U.S. team to help NATO prepare for Afghanistan elections

By WARD SANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

The United States will send a quick response force to Afghanistan to help NATO keep the peace during the presidential election there on Oct. 9.

The force, as described in a release by U.S. Ambassador to NATO Nicholas Burns, will be an infantry company outfitted with light armored and tracked vehicles. The company will be ready to go by late September, and could remain in the capital of Kabul for about three months. It should number around 110 troops.

The United States will also airlift mem-

bers of a Spanish quick-reaction battalion and an Italian battalion assigned to NATO's Response Force into the country. A spokesman for the ambassador wasn't immediately able to say from where the U.S. contributions would be deployed.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai had asked NATO for emergency security prior to the elections. At the NATO Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in June, the alliance agreed to assign 10,000 troops to its International Security Assistance Force, which beforehand was 6,500 strong. The U.S. quick response force will join these other NATO troops.

Most of the nearly 18,000 U.S. forces are

assigned to Operation Enduring Freedom, the sharper edge of operations in Afghanistan that hunts down terrorists as well as helps in reconstruction.

"The decision to offer these additional forces responds to a request from President Karzai and reflects the strong and sustained U.S. commitment to assist the Afghan people as they seek to exercise their democratic right and forge a constitutionally representative government," Burns announced this week. "It also fulfills a pledge made by NATO heads of state and government at their summit meeting in Istanbul."

About 10.3 million voters have registered for the October election and legisla-

tive elections in April, according to the United Nations. That figure outweighs even Karzai's summit estimate, which said that Afghanistan would boast 6 million registered voters. About 41 percent of those registered are women.

"These numbers are not final as data continues to come in and be verified at the data center in Kabul before it is entered into the database," Manuel de Almeida e Silva, a U.N. spokesman, said in a news release. "This process will continue for at least a couple of weeks."

Karai will square off against 17 other candidates for the office he now holds.

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: sanderson@mail.strips.esd.mil

Bradley the favored vehicle in Najaf battles

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

NAJAF, Iraq — A tough fight with a close-in enemy requires an even tougher vehicle.

Some soldiers attached to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, think that they've got the perfect piece for the fight in Najaf's narrow, rubble-strewn streets.

They swear that the Bradley armored fighting vehicle is just what's called for here.

"For this type of fighting, it's even better than tanks," said Staff Sgt. Demetrio Young, 29, of Marina, Calif.

"Tanks can withstand more hits, but I'd rather be in a Bradley because it can move a lot faster," he said.

American troops have been fighting in Najaf and some of the surrounding areas for the past three weeks.

The Bradley carries a rapid-fire 25 mm gun and a 50-caliber machine gun and runs on tracks like a tank. Tanks have

more armor, are much larger than a Bradley and carry a 120 mm main gun.

"With the 25 [mm], it's a lot better because it causes less damage than a tank round," said Sgt 1st Class Reginald Parham.

Causing less damage to a building is important because the Bradley also carries a half-dozen soldiers in the back.

"Most of the time the dismounts [soldiers] get out of the track and clear what we just shot," said Parham, who's worked on Bradleys for eight years.

In Najaf, the fighting distance between armor and enemy can sometimes be measured in feet, with the enemy popping out of alleys or on rooftops, firing and disappearing. Attacks come quickly and on many occasions the enemy fires first, meaning the vehicle needs to take some hits.

"In the Bradley, we can take four or five rocket-propelled grenade rounds before anything happens to the vehicle," said Parham after an early Tuesday morning



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

A Bradley armored fighting vehicle with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment sits on a Najaf, Iraq, street Thursday morning. Some of the company's soldiers say the Bradley is the perfect piece for the fight in Najaf's narrow, rubble-strewn streets. "I'd rather be in a Bradley," says one staff sergeant.

mission.

"Whatever street we go down here, we make contact," said Bradley driver Spc. Brandon Osborne, 23, of Quincy, Ill. "They're everywhere."

Osborne said that on this last

mission they flushed out 12 enemy fighters, firing on them to protect both their vehicle and their dismounted soldiers.

Later that afternoon, Osborne's Bradley survived a frontal hit from an RPG. Other than chunks

dug out of its steel, there was no damage to the vehicle and no injuries to its crew, who were a few feet from the impact but on the other side of the steel.

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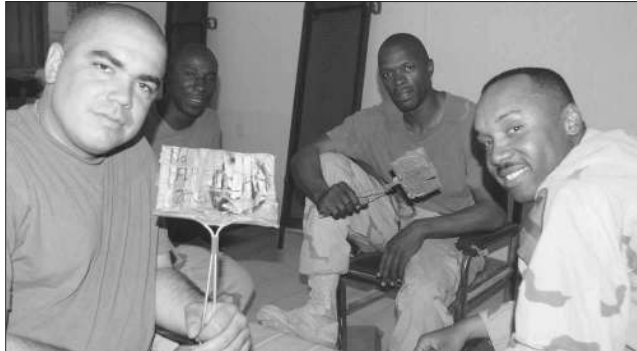
Sgt. Alfredo Garza, left, and Sgt. 1st Class John Hopson

hold their homemade fly swatters in Najaf, Iraq, between rounds of cards.

The two medics made the swatters to keep the pest population at bay, as well as the diseases they carry.

With them are Spc. Dashea Brown, second from left, and Sgt. 1st Class Marlon Anding.

JASON CHUDY Stars and Stripes



Soldiers' new mission creating a buzz

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

NAJAF, Iraq — The Army has declared a "no-fly zone" in Najaf.

More specifically, nothing is allowed to fly in the nondescript building where soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry are temporarily housed.

Sgt. 1st Class John Hopson and Sgt. Alfredo Garza are the proud owners of two wire-framed, duct-taped, handmade fly swatters.

Hopson said casualties have been relatively light in the battalion, despite heavy fighting in Najaf over the past few weeks, so there's plenty of time to hunt flies.

"Mine's the original," Hopson said during a

round of cards with Garza and two other soldiers. "Somewhere he messed around and got another fly swatter — an imitation."

"I built this to kill all the flies around the aid station," said Hopson. "[Shortly after] we first moved in here, it was like a fly cemetery." Flies can carry disease and, the two said, killing the pests helps keep down the possibility of diseases.

"Flies carry feces, and we're just doing preventive medicine," Hopson said.

"We're looking out for the good of the troops," Garza said.

Their "service" to the soldiers is produced by dramatically different designs, they said. Though basically similar in appearance, the swatters have important differences that the two say make one better than the other.

"I've got my slits to make sure that I get the

"flat" of a regular fly swatter," said Hopson. "It goes with the wind for a faster swat — it's lightweight and accurate."

"I've got at least 850 kills with this joker and still counting."

"I'll give you about 250," said Garza, who proudly shows off his version.

"This right here is a 'Generation II' fly swatter," he said. "It's reinforced with little pieces of cardboard for better durability. It also has more surface area."

Garza has added the words "No Fly Zone" on one side and a bull's-eye on the other.

According to their tallies, in addition to the hundreds of flies, Hopson has killed three dragonflies and Garza two.

"I even tried to get a bird once," Garza claimed, drawing groans from the room.

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4 suspects arrested

A group of 1st Infantry Division soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment captured four suspected insurgents Tuesday after a mortar attack against a base near Balad, Iraq, military officials reported Wednesday.

After the morning mortar attack, which injured a soldier on the base, the members of the Big Red One stopped a pickup truck fleeing the area the mortars came from.

AH-64 Apache attack helicopters assisted the soldiers, a Multi-National Corps-Iraq news release stated.

The suspects were taken into custody for questioning and residue testing, according to the release.

Prisoner abuse trial

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — An Iraqi inmate who died at a U.S. detention camp was an "omery prisoner" who was beaten by several Marines, including one on trial for allegedly kicking him in the chest, one of the camp's jailers testified.

Pfc. William Roy testified Wednesday that he and defendant Sgt. Gary Pittman believed the 52-year-old inmate, Nagem Hatat, had sold a rifle taken during the ambush of a U.S. Army convoy that left 11 soldiers dead and led to the capture of Pfc. Jessica Lynch and five others.

Pittman could be sentenced to two years in a military prison if convicted of assault and dereliction of duty. Roy was demoted from the rank of lance corporal as part of a plea deal in which he agreed to testify. He is the only Marine to say he saw Pittman attack Hatat.

From staff and wire reports

Rumsfeld appears safe after prison reports

Secretary shouldn't have to resign, but issue remains ripe for campaign debate

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Release of two in-depth investigative reports this week on the Abu Ghraib prison scandal appears to have put to rest suspicions that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld ordered or encouraged the use of abusive tactics against Iraqi detainees.

Rumsfeld and other defense leaders are faulted for lapses in oversight of the detention and interrogation system in Iraq, but unless the House or Senate launch new efforts to undermine Rumsfeld, it seems the scandal will not force him from office, as appeared possible last spring.

Some senior military officers, however, may be in jeopardy.

Disciplinary action has been recommended for a few commanders

Analysis

— none above the rank of colonel
— and the three-star general who was in charge of the U.S. military in Iraq at the time, Ricardo Sanchez, is cited in both new reports for leadership failures that might stop him from getting a fourth star.

Taken together, the two reports — one by an independent panel of defense experts and one by a four-star Army general — provide what amounts to the Pentagon's best answer to the central question that arose when photos of soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners shocked the world in April.

The question was: How could this have happened in a military that Rumsfeld and others call the

best in the world?

The short answer is that a relatively small number of deviant soldiers (about three dozen) committed sadistic acts, knowingly violating Army ethics and common standards of decency. And some of their leaders failed to provide supervision and support.

"We learned there were leaders who knew about this misconduct, knew better, and did nothing," said Gen. Paul Kern, who oversaw an Army investigation of the 20th Military Intelligence Brigade, which ran interrogations at the Abu Ghraib facility near Baghdad.

A part of the broader answer is that the Army was not fully prepared for the instability and insurgency that took hold after the fall of Baghdad. It didn't have enough people available to properly run the prison and interrogation sys-

tem; many were not well trained for that duty, and those at Abu Ghraib were ill-equipped to deal with insurgent attacks on the prison.



Rumsfeld

Some in Congress had suggested that Rumsfeld indirectly encouraged excesses in the interrogation of prisoners in Iraq, but neither the Army nor the independent investigation found any evidence of this.

The independent panel, headed by former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger, did conclude that Rumsfeld should have made

fuller use of his legal staff in developing an interrogation policy for Iraq before the war began. More broadly, it said the Pentagon leaders failed to adjust quickly to an unanticipated Iraqi insurgency.

Asked Wednesday after the release of the Army report whether Rumsfeld should go, Sen. John Warner, the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, told reporters he agreed with Schlesinger's view that Rumsfeld's departure would be a "boon to all of America's enemies."

Even if Rumsfeld's political support holds, the Democrats in a presidential election season are unlikely to let the scandal die quietly. John Kerry said Wednesday that Rumsfeld should resign and the whole matter should be investigated by an independent commission appointed by President Bush.

Florida man sets fire to Marine van after learning son was killed in Iraq

The Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Melinda Arredondo said she and her husband knew what was coming as three uniformed Marines approached their front door. While she started to cry, police say Carlos Arredondo simply snapped.

Distraught after being told his Marine son was killed in combat in Iraq, Carlos Arredondo climbed into the Marine Corps van parked outside his home and set it ablaze

Wednesday, suffering severe burns to his arms and legs.

The three Marines went to the house to tell the father and stepmother of Lance Cpl. Alexander Arredondo that their 20-year-old son had died Tuesday in Najaf, family members said.

The father then walked into the garage, picked up a propane tank, a lighting device and a can of gasoline he used to douse the van, police Capt. Tony Rode said. He smashed the van's window, got inside and set it ablaze, despite at-

tempts by the Marines to stop him, Rode said.

The Marines, reservists who are members of a military Casualty Assistance Calls Officer team, pulled Arredondo, 44, from the burning vehicle and extinguished the flames on him, police said.

None of the Marines was injured but the van was gutted by the fire, Marines spokesman Maj. Scott Mack said.

Rode said it was too early in the investigation to discuss possible charges against Arredondo.

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Reporter Jason Chudy tells your story from your perspective.



European troops get orders for Afghanistan

5,500 GIs will be first major USAREUR contingent since beginning of invasion

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — Army units in Germany and Italy have begun receiving marching orders for the next rotation of forces into Afghanistan, according to a spokesman for Army forces in Europe.

More than 5,500 troops from Europe will deploy into the combat zone beginning in late fall, with most of the forces in place by the end of the winter, said Michael Tolzmann, U.S. Army Europe spokesman.

It's unclear, however, what U.S.-based units will round out the deployment into Afghanistan.

The rotation marks the first major contingent from Europe embarking for duty in Afghanistan since the U.S.-led invasion almost three years ago.

The Italy-based Southern European Task Force is slated to take over command of the mission in March. The 2,000-strong SETAF, commanded by Brig. Gen. Jason Kaniya, will replace the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division which has been on the ground since spring.

With force levels in Afghanistan expected to hold steady at about 17,900 troops, SETAF's two battalions of paratroops will not be able to do the job alone. Europe-based troops will provide some of the help.

Joining them will be German-

ny-based AH-64 Apache Longbow and UH-60 Black Hawk crews, as well as a wide variety of intelligence, medical, military police and other support units.

While few if any of the Europe-based units have been to Afghanistan, many are veterans of the war in Iraq, SETAF, for example, jumped into Kurdish-held territory in the north at the beginning of the war.

"The mission's the same. It's just a different location."

Sp. Juan Haninger
3rd Battalion,
158th Aviation Regiment

Troops from the Giebelstadt-based 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, a Black Hawk unit, learned they will be headed to Afghanistan, barely a year after finishing an extended 13-month tour in Iraq.

The news of another year at war drew resigned sighs from the 3-158 Aviation's combat veterans. Several said they're at least relieved they'll be going someplace different.

"I'd prefer a change in scenery

— and a little cooler climate," said Sp. Brian Ferry, 20, of Rockland, Pa.

To others, though, the change matters little.

"The mission's the same," said Sp. Juan Haninger, 23, of Stockton, Calif. "It's just a different location."

There is currently the rough equivalent of seven infantry battalions operating in Afghanistan, including three light-infantry battalions from the 25th ID's Third Brigade, one battalion of Marines, and one battalion from the Virginia Army National Guard.

Meanwhile, the field artillery regiment from the 25th ID is performing a mix of infantry and artillery duties while the division's cavalry squadron also is performing largely light-infantry duties.

With only two infantry battalions so far slated to deploy, it's unclear what other combat forces will round out next rotation.

The 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment is one of the few ground combat units in Europe that has not yet returned from Iraq or currently is there. In fact, the unit was attached to SETAF to provide an armored punch for the unit as it

Operation Enduring Freedom 6

The next rotation of European-based units are expected to begin deploying to Afghanistan in late fall. They include:

Southern European Task Force

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 561st Air
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 123rd Airborne Brigade
1st Battalion, 508 Infantry Regiment
2nd Battalion, 503 Infantry Regiment
123rd Forward Support Battalion (Provisional)
740th Long Range Surveillance Detachment
Battery D, 319th Field Artillery Regiment
13th Military Police Company
24th Quartermaster Company

V Corps

Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 12th Aviation Brigade
2nd Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment
3rd Squadron, 158th Aviation Regiment
Company F, 159th Aviation Battalion
Company C, 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment
212th Military Police Company
52nd Military Police Company
Task Force 16th Military Intelligence
77th Ordnance Company
26th Quartermaster Company
79th Medical Detachment
71st Medical Detachment
25th Medical Detachment

21st Theater Support Command

Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 28th Support Group

14th Movement Control Battalion

20th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
Elements of 191st Ordnance Battalion
2nd Ordnance Company
5th Maintenance Company
59th Transportation Company
Elements of the 21st Transportation Company

Nine military working dog teams

5th Signal Command

44th Signal Battalion
Elements of the 509th Signal Battalion

1st Personnel Command

Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 510th Personnel Support Battalion
Company C, 510th Personnel Support Battalion
Several postal platoons from the 510th PSB

266th Finance Command

Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 26th Finance Battalion
Company A, 26th Finance Battalion
Company B, 26th Finance Battalion

18th Engineer Brigade

Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 18th Engineer Brigade
60th Engineer Detachment

7th Army Reserve Command

Reserve augmentees for SETAF

66th Military Intelligence Group

Three tactical human intelligence teams

pushed toward Baghdad from the north.

According to senior Army officials in Europe, the unit is now training for infantry duties at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in eastern Germany. Officials, however, could not confirm whether the battalion would deploy to Afghanistan.

"That unit has not been given deployment orders," said Hilde

Patton, a V Corps spokesman.

Even if 1-63 Armor does join the deployment, that still leaves four battalions worth of infantry off the roster.

So far, all the Pentagon has said is that "elements of XVIII Airborne Corps" would provide air battle of forces.

Steve Liewer contributed to this report.

E-mail Jon Anderson at: anderson@mil.estripes.com

Renovated restaurant brings Naples crowds a taste of the States

BY KENDRA HELMER

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Folks craving American grill food in an English-sub atmosphere can get it by swinging by a remodeled restaurant next to the Carney Park golf course.

After a yearlong renovation, the Fairways Bar & Grill, formerly known as the Fairways Restaurant, opens Friday at Carney Park.

"We wanted to have a place you can go to and have a beer and American food like you enjoy back in the States," said Richard Knapp, golf course manager.

Because the old restaurant's plumbing was being reworked, it made sense to do other upgrades at the same time, said Thomas Wilson, marketing director for Naples Morale, Welfare and Recreation. MWR did not have figures available on the overall cost of the renovations.

The carpet was ripped out and replaced with tiles and carpet, and the booths were swapped for leather chairs and tables. The solid-oak bar with stained-glass accents, custom-designed by the MWR staff, was built in the States and shipped to Naples. It has Irish, German and American beer on tap.

Knapp said a satellite will beam in the American Golf Channel and other programs to the six or so TVs in the bar and lounge area.

The patio, with new wrought-iron furniture and heaters, will be available for parties and banquets.

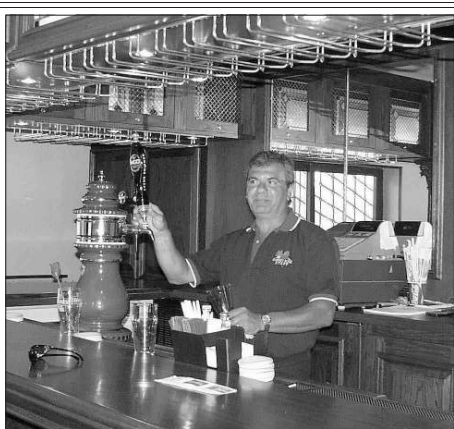
The Golf Pro Shop, which sells equipment and clothes, also was renovated. The lighting on the putting green has been improved for dry night play.

The eatery is open for lunch and early dinner from about noon to 9 p.m. Wednesdays to Sundays, with the hours dependent on the number of customers. The traditional mixed grill menu includes black Angus hamburgers, fish and chips, grilled swordfish, spinach and artichoke dip and salads.

It will also have theme nights, the first of which will be an all-you-can-eat taco bar Sept. 17. The theme nights, about 6-8 p.m., cost \$7.50 per person. Fairways also is considering having a monthly Sunday buffet brunch.

Friday's open house is 5 to 8 p.m. For more information on the restaurant, call 426-5418.

E-mail Kendra Helmer at: helmerk@mil.estripes.com



KENDRA HELMER/Stars and Stripes

Bartender Roberto Esposito stands behind the new British-style bar at the Fairways Bar & Grill, which reopens Friday at Carney Park in Naples, Italy, after a year of renovations. "We wanted to have a place you can go to and have a beer and American food like you enjoy back in the States," said Richard Knapp, golf course manager.



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Marsha Evans
President and CEO, American Red Cross
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)



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Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Scattered Marines get to meet together

Stuttgart conference provides latest news and info on Corps' future to MARFOREUR troops

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Marines usually form a pretty tight group, but not always.

The 1,200 who are part of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe, or MARFOREUR, are spread out across a lot of countries. On Wednesday and Thursday, some came to the European Theater Marine Conference to hear the latest news affecting Marines, as well as information on the Corps' direction for 2005 and beyond.

"The basis for my job is contact with other people... to go meet the Spanish commandant of the Marine Corps, to meet the Spanish chief of naval operations, to meet their operations officer," said Lt. Col. Jose Cristy of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the Defense Attache Office in Madrid.

"In the Spanish culture, business is done at a personal level. If I can know the needs of MARFOREUR and [U.S. European Command] and can translate that to them, that makes my job a lot easier."

The 90 Marines who came to the conference were mostly colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors. Many were from Stuttgart, where MARFOREUR is headquartered, but others came from places such as Latvia, Norway, Russia and Italy. Their job, according to MARFOREUR commander Lt. Gen. Martin R. Berndt, was to leave the conference feeling more connected to the Corps.

"In many cases, Marines... are working in an office with other service and state department people and they're focused on their day-to-day tasks," Berndt said. "Because they don't have a day-to-day exchange with Marine operating forces or, in some cases, other Marines, the things going on within the Corps don't get front-and-center attention."

"It's important they know what's going on, understand the

changes in the Corps and how we're transitioning and transforming ourselves in some areas."

Some of the changes are tactical, such as EUCOM's shifting focus from western Europe to eastern Europe and Africa, which are considered the new potential hotspots for enemies of the United States.

Other changes are not as exciting but just as important, Berndt said, such as new procedures and paperwork. The officers in attendance were ordered to learn the rules and pass them down their chain of command.

"So the lance corporal gets the benefits he rates," Berndt said. "And as a result of this [conference] they'll be afforded to him, and he'll get them on time, and he won't have to ask questions about, 'Why is this wrong?'"

Maj. Michelle Rudy, of Mullica Hill, N.J., and MARFOREUR's personnel office, said that behind every piece of paperwork is a Marine in there who has got something coming, whether it's danger pay, orders to a base or a doctor's bill.

"If these areas are not taken care of by these Marines," Rudy said, "when they actually go out to combat, they're thinking about their family back at home... and if this got settled."

Others in MARFOREUR, such as Maj. Miguel Ameigeiras, have no one underneath them to supervise. Ameigeiras, of Hollywood, Calif., a special assistant to the EUCOM deputy commander, hoped the conference would help him keep his own "Marine Corps house in order."

"It's all facilitated for me here," he said. "I'll know where to go for information and how to get everything accomplished."

"Then I can focus on the job the Marine Corps sent me here to do."

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HUGH C. MCBRIDE/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Martin R. Berndt, commander of U.S. Marine Forces Europe, emphasized the importance of taking care of administrative details to attendees Wednesday at the European Theater Marine Conference in Stuttgart, Germany.



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Königstuhl run coming

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The Heidelberg military community will host the 28th annual 43rd Signal Battalion Königstuhl Run at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 25.

To register for the 5.4-mile up-

hill slog to the Army's mountaintop antenna station, runners can call DSN 370-7045 or 06221-57-7054 for information, or go to the run's Web site at: www.koenigstuhlrun.de.

Entry fee for the run is \$12 until Sept. 17 and \$15 thereafter.

From staff reports

Airmen dissect the basics of the convoy

Thorough training assists squadron in managing the real thing in Iraq

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — The only incoming fire the 603rd Air Control Squadron has to worry about during training exercises this month is an errant shot off the tees of the nearby base golf course.

But dozens of airmen from the unit experienced the real thing earlier this year.

The 603rd returned from a six-month rotation in Iraq in June. During that stint, it completed a move from Baghdad International Airport to Balad Air Base, trucking all its equipment in nearly two dozen convoys.

Staff Sgt. Jason DeLucy, who was on most of those missions, said a few convoys came under small-arms fire from a distance. But none of them had to stop and there were no injuries.

Still, the experience made him realize that training for such missions should be taken seriously.

"The training is pretty thorough and fits with what we experienced," he said.

Because the unit wasn't ambushed and had some help from the Army in clearing roadside bombs in Iraq, this training probably goes a bit further, he said, because it covers scenarios that didn't happen.

LT Col. Jennifer Spears, who took over the squadron after it re-



PRISCILLA ROBINSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Members of the 603rd Air Control Squadron practice moving equipment and personnel via a convoy on Aviano Air Base, Italy, earlier this month. The squadron, which spent the first half of 2004 deployed to Iraq, is designed to be mobile and handle its own transportation needs while deployed.

turned to Aviano, said the 603rd has to be prepared to fend for itself and know everything possible about traveling by convoy.

"In order to get to where we need to go to accomplish the mis-

sion, this is where you start," she said. "It's a basic requirement for this squadron to have all the basic skills."

Basic to many Army units, maybe. But not to airmen.

So in addition to loading up and unpacking a small amount of their equipment, airmen have been drilling on setting up tents and camps, establishing perimeters and training on how to pro-

perly handle weapons and use protective gear in a convoy setting. Airmen who went through the drill faced ambushes, roadside bomb scenarios and protests designed to stall the convoys.

First LT. Ryan Finan said the only real scare was to golfers who were surprised when heavily armed airmen quickly arrived and set up camp near one of the holes. The squadron was using an area adjacent to the golf course, because it already had other equipment there.

Spears said the squadron needs to be familiar with all its tasks, because it could be called to deploy again at "any time." She said she's heard of no such deployments, but there are only five air control squadrons in the Air Force — including the 606th Air Control Squadron at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany.

Such squadrons are not included in the Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotations. Unlike most airmen sent to locations in the desert, air control squadrons deploy as units. They also can spend a longer time in theater, as evidenced by the 603rd's Iraq deployment.

"It's probably about as close to the Army as the Air Force gets," Finan said with a smile, summing up all the difficulties.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@mil.strips.com

Navy patrolman enters guilty plea to charges related to on-duty joyride

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROSA, Spain — A Navy patrolman pleaded guilty at a special court-martial Thursday to flipping a security vehicle during an on-duty joy ride and then trying to cover it up.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Aaron Sweet said he was "showboating" when he drove the sports utility vehicle off road during a routine base patrol with another security officer March 26. He said he rolled the Nissan Terra-no while doing "doughnuts" and "figure eights." The vehicle was totaled in the accident. The in-

surance company estimated the damage at \$7,728.

Sweet, who has 15 years of service in the Navy, pleaded guilty to five incident-related charges, including making a false statement, damaging government property and reckless driving.

Navy Judge (Capt.) Dave White sentenced Sweet to 60 days' hard labor, a reduction in pay rate and forfeiture of \$300 per month for six months. U.S. base commander Capt. John Orem will review the case and could reduce the punishment.

Sweet said he and Petty Officer 3rd Class Valeria Pezzano were patrolling the base's northeast section when he flipped the vehicle.

To cover up the incident, he told a security dispatcher over the radio they were in pursuit of a speeding black sedan. He said he and Pezzano agreed to the phony story. But after security scoured the naval station for the phantom car and never found it, Sweet and Pezzano admitted they made it up.

Under the sentencing guidelines, Sweet will be reduced to a petty officer third class. However, if he gets in trouble in a 12-month period, he could be dropped to a seaman pay rate.

Pezzano has not been charged in the incident.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mil.strips.com

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IN THE WORLD

Russian flight recorders yield no crash info

BY JIM HEINTZ

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A top Russian official said Thursday that flight recorders failed to provide reliable information about what brought down two jetliners just minutes apart, but for the first time a government leader conceded that terrorism was considered the leading possibility.

A day after officials spoke cautiously about terrorism and stressed that other causes were being considered, presidential envoy Vladimir Yakovlev said that despite the lack of data, the main theory about the catastrophe "all the same remains terrorism," the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

The apparent failure of the recorders to provide significant information was sure to fuel what appeared to be rising suspicion among Russians over the crashes that killed 89 people, a view embodied by a

headline in the Nezavisimaya Gazeta proclaiming "Russia now has a Sept. 11."

"There are too many coincidences," said a Moscow pensioner, Ruvn Surnyanov. Physicist Natalia Kozhelupova said, "It's too suspicious."

Others found their suspicions mixed with perplexity. "I never trust what the authorities are saying, but in this case I don't know," said Yevgeny Sknepner, a computer programmer.

Many Russians have ingrained doubts about the government's candor after the confused and contradictory reports on the sinking of the nuclear submarine Kursk in 2000 and the still-murky 2002 seizure of a Moscow theater by Chechen rebels.

Suspensions about terrorism in the crashes were bolstered by the fact they came just five days before a Kremlin-called election in warring Chechnya, whose separatist rebels have been blamed in a series of suicide bombings and other attacks in recent years.

Officials previously expressed concern that militants might try to carry out attacks ahead of Sunday's vote.

Officials said Wednesday that while terrorism was a possibility, other factors such as bad jet fuel or human error also were being investigated and they hoped the planes' data recorders would yield clues.

But Yakovlev, the presidential envoy for southern Russia, where one of the jetliners crashed, told First Channel television that the recorders "turned off immediately ... this is probably the main affirmation that something happened very fast."

He said the recorders "had gone out of service already before the fall of the airliners," ITAR-Tass said.

Analysts were divided over whether the government has been trying to play down the possibility of terrorism.

Pavel Felgenhauer, an independent military analyst who is often critical of Russian

authorities, said the government would have nothing to gain in a cover-up.

"From all viewpoints, it would be better for the authorities to call it a terrorist act ... because otherwise it means that things are really bad here, that we have bad planes that crash to the ground one after another," he said.

But Oleg Panteleev, an independent aviation expert, speculated the authorities were trying to avoid another form of embarrassment.

"For the special services, to miss such a major terrorist act would be to acknowledge their impotence," he said.

A government commission appointed to investigate traveled Thursday to the crash site about 120 miles south of Moscow, where a Tu-134 with 43 people aboard went down. Workers ended their search work there, but continued to comb the wreckage of a Tu-154 that crashed in southern Russia, killing 46 passengers and crew.

Spanish festival paints small town red
Revelers wage annual tomato war

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Knee-deep in red mush, tens of thousands of revelers pelted each other with tons of ripe tomatoes Wednesday in Spain's messiest summer party.

Police in the eastern village of Bunol — population 10,000 — said some 36,000 people waged the hour-long food fight, bathing themselves, the walls and streets with 140 tons of fruit projectiles.

Some warriors were shown on television literally swimming in the fresh tomato puree, only their

heads peeking out of the sea of red pulp.

It all started with a pistol shot at high noon, after which six trucks unloaded fruit ammunition for Spaniards and tourists from as far away as Japan who had gathered for two hours to paste each other in the decades-old battle called "La Tomatina."

Residents preferring to watch from balconies — but getting their licks in, too — poured water on the crowd.

Town hall set up 500 makeshift showers for the revelers to clean up. Others bathed in a river.

The festival, held every year on the last Wednesday of August, is said to have started in the 1940s when a clutch of youths began throwing their lunch at each other one day in a downtown square.

They met again the following year, this time pelting passers-by as well and giving birth to the now legendary food fight.



AP photos

Young people throw ripe tomatoes at each other during the annual "Tomatina" tomato fight in the town of Bunol, near Valencia, Spain, on Wednesday. The town used 140 tons of tomatoes in the messy battle.



An unidentified man lies in a river of tomato juice at the end of the tomato throwing festival.



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Call for impeachment

LONDON — A lawmaker used historic Parliamentary laws to launch an attempt to impeach Prime Minister Tony Blair Thursday for misleading the country over the case for the Iraq war.

Adam Price, a lawmaker with the Welsh Plaid Cymru party, said he was reviving a parliamentary procedure last used more than 150 years ago because Blair had refused to resign despite "compelling evidence" that he had duped the country.

Price's bid would require a vote in support of impeachment in the House of Commons, where Blair's ruling Labour Party has an overwhelming majority, making it an unlikely scenario.

More canceled flights

LONDON — British Airways canceled some flights Thursday, marking the fourth consecutive day of disrupted services due to staff shortages and technical difficulties.

The airline scrapped a scheduled flight from Baltimore, Md., to Heathrow Airport and a round-trip flight from Heathrow to Amsterdam, citing technical problems.

Round-trip flights from the airport to Oslo and Zurich were canceled because of staff shortages. The airline has canceled almost 90 European and U.S. flights over the past three days, stranding thousands of travelers at the height of the busy summer vacation period.

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Bush enlists McCain to fight attack ads

BY DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — President Bush wants to work with Republican Sen. John McCain to go to court against political ads by "shadowy" outside groups, the White House said Thursday amid growing pressure on the president to denounce attacks on John Kerry's war record.

"We want to pursue court action," Bush spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters aboard Air Force One en route to New Mexico. "The president said if the court action doesn't work, that he would be willing to pursue legislative action with Sen. McCain on that."

McClellan did not say when any of those steps would be taken. Election Day is Nov. 2.

The debate over Kerry's service in Vietnam has dominated the presidential race in recent

weeks after the group Swift Boat Veterans for Truth aired ads questioning the Democratic nominee's decorated record.

McCain, R-Ariz., has called on Bush to condemn the anti-Kerry ads, even as the war hero popular with many independent voters is actively supporting Bush's re-election.

The senator welcomed Bush's gesture.

"I'm very appreciative of the president's effort to do that," McCain said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I want to emphasize if I could that we're not saying that 527s should be abolished. We're just saying they should live under the same campaign finance restrictions (as hard money groups) because they are engaged in partisan activity."

McCain added: "I've said before I would like for the president to specifically condemn that ad, but the president has said John Kerry served honorably and also



Bush

Kerry challenges president to series of weekly debates

The Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — John Kerry challenged President Bush on Thursday to weekly debates from now until Nov. 2 on campaign issues like education, health care and national security.

"America deserves a discussion like we're having here today, which I'm prepared to have with this president every single week from now until the election," the Democratic presidential candidate said.

The Bush-Cheney campaign rebutted the debate challenge.

"There will be a time for de-

bates after the convention, and during the next few weeks, John Kerry should take the time to finish the debates with himself," responded Bush-Cheney spokesman Steve Schmidt.

"This election presents a clear choice to the American people between a president who is moving America forward and a senator who has taken every side of almost every issue," he said.

The Commission on Presidential Debates has scheduled three presidential debates to be held on college campuses in the battleground states of Florida, Missouri and Arizona in late September and October.

the president is now committed to acting to try to bring 527s into regulations that are appropriate."

Bush has criticized all outside group attack ads, including the Swift Boat Veterans group's first commercial. He has said he wants the ads to stop, but has not explicitly condemned the charges made in the Swift Boat ad.

Responding to the White House

statement, Kerry spokesman Phil Singer said, "This isn't an issue about 527 ads or campaign finance. It's a question of whether the commander-in-chief will denounce a group whose claims have been discredited by eyewitness accounts, official naval records and, in some cases, their own words."

McClellan said the goal is "to shut down all of this activity by these shadowy groups."

Crematory settles suit for \$80M

BY ELLIOTT C.
MCCLAUGHLIN

The Associated Press

ROME, Ga. — An \$80 million settlement was reached Thursday in a lawsuit against the operators of a crematory where the remains of 334 people were found strewn across the grounds.

The settlement was reached the day after a trial stemming from the lawsuit filed by nearly 1,700 people who said their relatives' remains were mishandled. U.S. District Court Judge Harold Murphy commended both sides for the amicable agreement.

The suit against Ray Brent Marsh and his father's estate came 2½ years after 334 bodies that were supposed to have been cremated were found at the Tri-State Crematory, which served Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama.

"Everybody, quite frankly, wanted to get it over," said defense attorney Frank Jenkins. "We want it over, we want healing, we want to go on with our lives and I think that's what made it possible."

Marsh, who still faces 787 criminal charges in an October trial, declined to comment.

Robert Darroch, an attorney for the family members, said payment would come from the Marshes' insurance company, Georgia Farm Bureau, and that it and the two parties would work out details Friday in a county court.

He said he had "no doubt" the company will pay the money because the Marshes' policy covers acts of negligence.

Federal judge rules in favor of 'partial-birth abortion'

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a highly anticipated ruling, a federal judge found the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act unconstitutional Thursday because it does not include a health exception.

U.S. District Judge Richard C. Casey in Manhattan said the Su-

preme Court has made it clear that a law that prohibits the performance of a particular abortion procedure must include an exception to preserve a woman's life and health. Casey issued the ruling two months after hearing closing arguments in the case.

A San Francisco judge already has declared the 2003 law unconstitutional, and a judge in Lincoln,

Nebraska, is considering the question. The three judges suspended the law while they held the trials.

The law, signed in November, represented the first substantial federal legislation limiting a woman's right to choose an abortion.

Abortion rights activists said it conflicted with three decades of Supreme Court precedent.

It banned a procedure that is

known to doctors as intact dilation and extraction, but is called "partial-birth abortion" by abortion foes. During the procedure, the fetus is partially removed from the womb, and its skull is punctured or crushed.

The judge challenged the conclusion by Congress that there is no significant body of medical opinion that the procedure has safety advantages for women.

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Firms chosen to create defense systems for commercial planes

BY LESLIE MILLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Teams led by BAE Systems and Northrop Grumman were chosen Wednesday to build and test prototypes for anti-missile systems to defend U.S. commercial planes against shoulder-fired rockets.

The Homeland Security Department said the companies will each get \$45 million over the next 18 months. It's the second phase of the agency's effort to determine whether affordable, effective anti-missile systems can be deployed on commercial planes. Last January, BAE, Northrop and United Airlines were chosen from among 24 companies that sought \$2 million contracts to develop plans for using anti-missile technology and to analyze the eco-

nomic, manufacturing and maintenance issues for placing such systems on civilian aircraft.

All three came up with plans that use lasers to redirect heat-seeking rockets away from aircraft engines. United's plan was not considered as advanced, so it was dropped.

"We have been impressed with the progress made by these teams over the past six months," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said. "Taking aggressive action to understand how technology can address this potential threat is a high priority for us."

Military aircraft and planes that carry heads of state, such as Air Force One, already deploy anti-missile systems. The systems, though, are not reliable enough for commercial aviation,

require a great deal of maintenance and can go off spontaneously while a plane is on the ground, creating a safety hazard.

The two companies will have to overcome those problems in a cost-effective way and obtain approval for the devices from the Federal Aviation Administration, said Parney Albright, assistant secretary for Homeland Security.

"There's a lot of challenges ahead," Albright said.

Concerns about terrorists using lightweight rocket launchers to take down commercial airliners were raised in November 2002 when terrorists fired two SA-7 missiles that narrowly missed an Israeli passenger jet after it took off from Mombasa, Kenya. U.S. officials concluded al-Qaida probably was behind the attack, which coincided with a bomb blast at a nearby hotel.



A 1995 Ford Mustang seized by police is among the items that will be put up for sale by the state of California. In an effort to terminate the state's surplus items, the state Department of General Services will hold a giant sale for the public Friday and Saturday.

Everything but the governor: California holds a garage sale

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California is cleaning out its garage and holding a sale, selling off surplus office equipment and computers, along with cars, espresso machines and baseball cards the state has accumulated over the years.

The massive housecleaning is part of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's move to make state government more efficient and is an idea highlighted in the 2,700-page California Performance Review he ordered. Better management of the state's assets was also the subject of an executive order and legislation Schwarzenegger signed.

The state Department of General Services leases warehouses that are stacked with giant crates, each one filled with surplus state goods, but most of which "were just sitting here for years, gathering dust," said Fred Aguilar, secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency. In what he called the first thorough purging of its warehouses, Aguilar said at least one of the crates held surplus goods from a department that has been defunct for two years.

Selling the property Friday and

Saturday will help clean out "the cobwebs of government," Schwarzenegger said.

The Department of General Services surplus warehouse in Sacramento, normally open to the public for sale of surplus state equipment, was closed Thursday so workers could sort and price the goods.

Items such as office furniture, tools, computers, restaurant equipment, jewelry and baseball cards will be set out for sale Friday and Saturday. Also among the surplus property is a 1995 Ford Mustang with 48,000 miles seized by South Lake Tahoe police.

While most of the items are from various state agencies and offices, others have come to the state through asset forfeitures and other avenues, said Aguilar.

On Wednesday, workers sorted boxes of thousands of knives, scissors and nail clippers — and one abandoned electric cattle prod seized at airport security checkpoints.

In case bargain hunters can't be in Sacramento for the sale, the state is also selling many items on eBay under the seller name californiagold2000.

The state will accept cash, credit cards and personal checks, Aguilar said, adding, "These items are priced to move."

Wis. man cleared as suspect in couple's deaths

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — Authorities cleared a Wisconsin man who had been sought following the shooting deaths of two camp counselors, saying he was not a suspect.

Nicholas Edward Scarseth, 21, called police after it was announced that he was a "potential witness" in the killings. He was interviewed Tuesday, passed a polygraph test and was then released in what his parents say was a case of mistaken identity.

"He was cooperative and was released after our interview," Lt. Dave Edmonds of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department said in a statement Wednesday. "We presently do not view Mr. Scarseth as a suspect."

Dozens of detectives are investigating the murders of Lindsay Cusick, 23, and her fiancé, Jason Allen, 26, who were found Aug. 18 shot to death in their sleeping bags on a remote beach near the Northern California hamlet of Jenner.

From The Associated Press

Messages of Support

★ Dear Servicemen, You aren't here in the U.S, but if you were here, you would see flags and "support our troops" signs everywhere. On cars, in yards and with them come our prayers. Mary, Nevada, TX

★ Hello, I do not believe in war but would like to send you a hello message and say i am on your side and that you are doing a good job, fighting for your country!!! Peace and love!

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OPINION

Timing of troop plan influenced by politics

Los Angeles Times

With the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States began bringing its 400,000 troops home from their bases overseas. Now about 200,000 are stationed outside the United States, excluding the more than 150,000 in Iraq and Afghanistan. Most of those doing tours of several years are in Germany and South Korea.

Last week, President Bush proposed bringing more servicemen back to U.S. bases. Redeployment is something Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has been studying since he took office in 2001. But what should be a study in strategy and tactics, a discussion on how best to provide national security, has been overwhelmed by politics. Hence the president's announcement on troop withdrawals less than three months before an election, at an appearance before the Veterans of Foreign Wars that was paid for by Bush's re-election campaign.

If the Pentagon's plans are good — and Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry denounced them in his equally political appearance before the VFW two days after Bush spoke — they'll be just as good after Inauguration Day.

Not that any of the redeployments (per-

haps eventually totaling as many as 70,000) will happen any time soon. Pentagon officials said they would not begin for more than a year and could take as long as a decade. Nor would changing the troop strength and locations be cheap.

Bush predicted savings, but they may come at the price of a steep initial investment, according to a Congressional Budget Office report in May on the Army, the service with the most permanent installations and troops outside the United States. The moving costs will be great, base infrastructure in the United States must be expanded to cope with more troops and their families, and contributions from host nations such as Germany will undoubtedly be trimmed.

Kerry criticized the proposed withdrawal of 12,000 of the more than 38,000 U.S. troops in South Korea at a time when Washington is trying to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons. But 51 years after the end of the Korean War, South Korea should be able to defend itself, and a withdrawal of one-third of the U.S. troops would be unlikely to persuade Pyongyang that the United States is in retreat or unwilling to again come to Seoul's aid.

The primary reason for stationing U.S. troops in Japan and South Korea is to protect American interests, and only second-



arily to give pause to enemies of the host countries. Political support in host countries also plays a role; the United States shut its bases in the Philippines after years of protest.

The Cold War dictated domestic and overseas deployments; the war on terror is

necessitating new bases in nations such as Uzbekistan.

Advanced technology in the hands of a well-equipped, highly trained military may make it easier to keep troops and their families at home rather than abroad, but the decision must be based on reasons of national security, not politics.

Repositioning U.S. forces is valid as enemies shift

BY PETER R. HUESSY

President Bush's bold proposal to redeploy some 70,000 U.S. troops from East Asia and Western Europe is a win-win situation from virtually every vantage point.

It's good for American taxpayers, it's good for military morale and it's good for our allies.

Most important, it's good for national security at a time when quick-strike mobility rather than a outdated Cold War set-piece strategy — is vital in fighting a war against shadowy terrorist cells lurking in many corners around the globe.

Bush has proposed moving upward of some 70,000 American soldiers from East Asia and Western Europe over the next decade. These soldiers will probably involve heavy armor divisions stationed in Germany as well as some forces from the Republic of Korea and Okinawa. The U.S. bedrock of deterrence will remain, of course, reinforced by our nuclear umbrella and our forces still stationed in those areas — especially with respect to the still-emerging threat from the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

A very large number of retired U.S. military combat veterans, including seven generals and three admirals with a combined 350 years of service, have endorsed the administration's proposals. They and other experts note the war against the so-called international *ihadists* will require an agile and flexible military — an objective that certainly will be enhanced by the president's proposed reforms.

It's comforting to note a bipartisan consensus developing — highlighted by Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry's recent remark that a thoughtful reform might very well include some movement of U.S. forces from Germany and South Korea.

While our military is currently grappling with its full and complete role in Iraq, a key element of any effective strategy in the

future will be to act prior to attacks. That likely means pre-emptive moves that preserve the stability of friendly governments while undermining the terror masters, rogue regimes and terrorists' private financiers.

Even major organizations such as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, generally reflexively against U.S. military power, now have concluded that "too many dangerous activities" are not encompassed by existing agreements, and therefore need to be countered by the possible use of military force.

Of prime importance is the growing threat of nuclear terror, which the Bush administration describes as a key "proliferation threat."

This triple threat combines outlaw states, the growth of "loose" nuclear weapons/materials, and fanatical terrorists willing to use any means necessary to express their hatred of the West.

As a result, the Bush administration concluded that some of the actors in this horror-drama, including Saddam Hussein's Iraq, could not be reformed. While Libya's decision to capitulate and remove its nuclear

arm and other weapons programs was welcome, it is an unlikely outcome in many of the other cases.

Flexible military forces can help the United States and its allies act quickly to intercept banned and dangerous technology, fully enforce and expand the Proliferation Security Initiative, while complementing expanded Nunn-Lugar efforts to keep nuclear material out of the hands of the *ihadists*.

Following these strategies will allow us to muscularly enforce clear-sighted policies in the war on terror rather than rely on what Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., has dubbed "peace through paper" and the Carnegie Endowment has called "commitments and resolutions earnestly passed."

One of America's finest soldiers, former Marine Corps Commandant Gen. P.X. Kelly, noted the new troop alignment proposed by the president demonstrates a forward-looking view, moves beyond the status quo, recognizes the realities of the post-Sept. 11 world. Kelly points out that "the threat America faces today is fundamentally different than the threats America's military was configured to face during

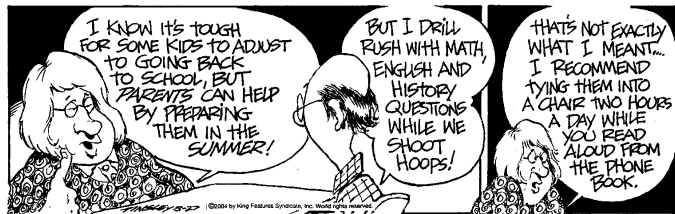
the Cold War" as modern military capabilities "make force deployment and the projection of power more important than the location of standing armies."

Of course, the threat from North Korea remains serious, and is growing with its nuclear program and ballistic missiles. But the current force of Americans soldiers in South Korea has never been adequate to stop a concerted attack from Pyongyang without major reinforcements and the use of overwhelming air power. To mount an effective deterrent in Korea, however, the Bush administration wisely recognizes that we do not need to tie down hundreds of thousands of U.S. forces that are better utilized elsewhere.

In short, President Bush's repositioning of U.S. forces is based on a new reality that indelibly inscribed itself on the national consciousness after the tragic events of Sept. 11. One can argue that it might have been undertaken a half-decade or more ago, but both the American people and their protectors should be thankful it is occurring now. Peter R. Hueesy is a senior defense associate at the National Defense University Foundation and a member of the President's Council on Foreign Relations. He is also a member of the bipartisan education and advocacy organization dedicated to building a national consensus for fighting terror around the globe.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Kerry signs stolen

FL PENSACOLA — Hundreds of yard signs supporting Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry have been stolen and vandalized in this heavily Republican region known as "Buc Country," prompting some Kerry supporters to hang signs from trees to deter burglars.

About 350 signs have been stolen, according to Panhandle for Kerry organizers, who met with Pensacola police Monday. The group has distributed nearly 3,400 signs.

Police said they would increase patrols and Kerry supporters planned to conduct neighborhood watches, said the group's chairman, Jerry Holt.

Pensacola resident Anne Bennett lost four Kerry signs from her front yard before putting out a homemade sign that read "Nice people don't steal or vandalize." She hung her latest sign from a pine tree limb 15 feet in the air.

1986 murder solved

NY MONTICELLO — A 41-year-old Californian man has admitted bludgeoning and stabbing to death an upstate New York restaurant owner almost 18 years ago.

Komal Bennett, 41, of San Francisco, had been a cook at the Bloomingburg diner owned by John Roe.

"My intent was to rob Mr. Roe," Bennett said Wednesday in Sullivan County Court. "It all wound up in a murder, your honor."

Roe was found dead Nov. 3, 1986, outside his home in Bloomingburg, 66 miles north of New York City.

The key to the case was a cigarette butt found in a beer bottle in Roe's house, police said. DNA taken from that butt this year led authorities to Bennett, who had a 1994 criminal conviction in Minnesota.

Natural gas blaze

TX MOSS BLUFF — Experts were preparing to cap a blaze at a natural gas well that has been burning since last week.

The fire shooting up from the underground natural gas storage cavern east of Houston once soared as high as 1,000 feet, but diminished to about 300 feet Monday, authorities said.

Authorities have revised the number of evacuees from one family to 30. All live within a mile of Duke Energy's Moss Bluff storage facility in Liberty County.

Duke Energy spokeswoman Frances Jeter said the exact count of evacuees housed at area hotels is still being calculated. She said residents who lived outside the one-mile radius and felt threatened by the fire were also provided lodging.

Deep impact

GA ATLANTA — A layer of quartz grains found in an east Georgia kaolin mine have been traced to the impact of a giant asteroid that crashed near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay 35 million years ago.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

The 54-mile-wide crater left by the meteor, the sixth-largest in the world, previously has been identified as the source of a rare mineral called Georgiite. Small, glassy, olive-green beads of it have been found for decades in more than a dozen middle Georgia counties.

They are a type of impact-produced natural glass called tektite.

Ed Albin, a tektite expert at Fernbank Science Center in Atlanta, steered research into the substance toward the open kaolin mines that dot the center of the state. Sandwiched between layers of clay in an abandoned kaolin mine in Warren County, a team of researchers headed by University of Georgia graduate student Scott Harris, found traces of the impact.

Drunk wedding guest

NH LYNDEBOROUGH — New charges are likely against a man who showed up drunk at a Lyndeborough wedding and injured the groom Saturday, police said.

Brian Lithgow, 43, of Steamboat Springs, Colo., ended up driving his car over the groom's foot, police said.

Cpl. Mike Jeha, Lyndeborough police patrol supervisor, said Michelle Brady organized the wedding as a surprise for Sean Brady, now her husband. He said the in-

vestigation into Lithgow's conduct is continuing.

Police Chief James Basinas said Lithgow drove up and down the road in his truck, drunk and angry. He said the groom stopped him to ask him to leave, but Lithgow didn't until he ran over the groom's foot with his truck.

Wal-Mart romance

ID BOISE — Somewhere between the junk food aisle and the automotive department, Pat Byrd and Bill Hughes fell in love.

So it was only natural that they should marry where the magic happened — Wal-Mart.

"It never dawned on me to have it anyplace else," said the 55-year-old bride.

Neither bride nor groom work at the discount store. Still, they spend more time there than many employees do, wandering the aisles and visiting friends for up to six hours a day, nearly every day since the store opened two years ago.

"I talk to people and walk around for exercise, and we always buy a soda or a sandwich or something," 51-year-old Hughes said.

"If we're not here, the store people worry about us. They're our family."

Call in sick next time

LA NEW ORLEANS — An extermination company employee was charged with impersonating a Secret Service agent to get out of work.

Prosecutors say Mark Taylor told his employers during an absence that he was a federal agent on an official assignment, allegedly collecting \$1,800 in salary while he was away. Taylor faces up to three years in prison.

Twice the twins

MN ST. PAUL — Alyssa and Grant Kusek joke that they've won the baby lottery. The winning numbers must have been 2-2.

On Thursday, Alyssa Kusek gave birth to their second set of twins in a year.

"We are kind of on the accelerated plan," Alyssa laughed as she cradled her new son Caleb on Saturday.

Doctors at United Hospital in St. Paul say they've never seen two sets of twins from the same parents in a year's time. The likelihood of having two sets of twins over the course of a woman's child-bearing years is less than 2 percent, doctors say.

The couple said the first set was born with a little help from medical science, while the latest pair was an "oops."

Not really a body

CA CARPINTERIA — Homicide detectives investigating reports of a corpse spotted in a trash can cordoned off the area only to find their victim was a discarded dummy. "It was very realistic. It was an anatomically correct and theatrical quality dummy," sheriff's Lt. Phil Willis said.



Standing strong

The Statue of Liberty, now open again to the public after terrorism fears shuttered the park, is expecting a rise in visitors during the Republican National Convention. The RNC begins in New York on Aug. 30.



Almighty light show

Lightning fills the sky behind Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Lawrence, Kan. Storms caused flooding throughout Lawrence, knocking out power to some while putting on an electrical show of its own.



Deadly wreck

A single-engine plane is airlifted off El Matador State Beach, northwest of Malibu, Calif., and lowered onto a truck Monday. Three people were killed when two single-engine planes collided off the beach on Sunday.



To the moon

A ultra-light plane flies over Thomas J. Dodd Stadium in Norwich, Conn., during a Norwich Navigators minor-league baseball game.



Elephant crossing

A motorist watches Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey circus elephants cross at the intersection of Pascagoula and Jefferson streets as they make their way to the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, Miss.



Dog days of summer

Mahjon Hafez wades in the pool with her dog, Cody, a standard poodle, in Wichita, Kan. The dogs swim and participated in jumping and Frisbee-catching contests before the pool was drained for season.



Just a small taste

A small butterfly searches for nectar among flowers in Annandale, Va. Birds and insects took advantage of the cooler-than-normal August weather in the Washington area to search for food.

Tortured and murdered

TX HOUSTON — Police want to track down the relatives of a 50-year-old man who investigators say was mutilated and tortured before being killed.

"This man's last 30 minutes were terrible, terrifying, horrible," Houston Police Department homicide Sgt. Jim Binford told the Houston Chronicle for its Tuesday editions. "He was horribly mutilated and tortured before he was killed."

Luis Manuel Munoz's body was spotted in Brays Bayou by a pedestrian on Aug. 15, Binford said that Munoz died from gunshot wounds, which only told part of the story.

Binford, who declined to detail the mutilations for investigative reasons, said 15 large holes cut in Munoz's torso and abdomen were evidently to help the body sink. A heavy weight was fastened to one of Munoz's ankles with chain.

15-term mayor dies

PA BEAVER — Robert P. Linn, recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the nation's longest-serving mayor, has died. He was 95, and first took office more than 58 years ago.

Linn, in his 15th term, died at home Saturday, said his daughter, Marty Scheidtmantel.

"He always stood up for the community, and rightfully so," said Beaver County Commissioners Chairman Dan Donatella. "Big mayor was almost a tradition for him. He loved the community and always put it ahead of everything."

Linn was sworn into office on Jan. 2, 1946, though he didn't even want the job, then known as Burgess. Linn went along with a group of Republicans who wanted to unseat the incumbent — but he took out a newspaper ad urging people to vote for his opponent.

Cow earns dairy drink

MT BOZEMAN — Rancher Skip Hoagland figured it was an offer he couldn't refuse: Bring in a cow, get a free frozen blended coffee beverage.

So he took Bonnie Prince Charles Edward Stuart, a Scottish Highland steer who generally goes by "Charlie," to a local Dairy Queen on Tuesday and got a free "Moolatte" as part of a corporate promotion.

Hoagland brought Charlie to town after reading that people who brought a living cow to any participating business would be rewarded with a free coffee-flavored Dairy Queen version of a latte.

Charlie, who is 10, was the only animal that made an appearance at any of the area outlets.

'Spider-Man' busted

NY NEW YORK — A personal trainer, dubbed "Spider-Man" because of his ability to scale walls, leap from windows to roofs and swing on fire escapes, was convicted Monday of several counts of burglarizing Manhattan apartments, offices and schools.

Rufus Graham, 41, was found guilty of breaking into mostly upscale apartments on the Upper East and Upper West sides and in Midtown. He also was convicted of robbing the Dwight School on West 89th Street and the Ramaz

School on East 78 Street.

Police Officer Ray Gogarty testified he saw Graham, once a physically well-conditioned personal trainer at the David Barton Gym, leap backward out a seven-story theatrical office window on West 45th Street, just east of Times Square.

Graham landed on the roof of the Lyceum Theater, fell a 10-foot alley and three stories down, Gogarty said. He pretended to be hurt until he spotted a fire escape ladder, which he quickly slid down and vanished, the officer testified.

Infant death conviction

HI HONOLULU — An Oahu man was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole for causing the death of his 8-week-old son last October.

Derrick Smith, 33, of Salt Lake, was sentenced Monday after being convicted in June of second-degree murder in the death of his son, Kelly Bridenstine.

Smith had testified that he accidentally dropped the boy while taking him to his crib.

Prosecutors said the death was no accident and pointed to an autopsy that determined the baby died of "abusive head trauma," including two skull fractures and bruises.

Biotech species rules

CA SACRAMENTO — Wildlife regulators have issued 14 permits for genetically engineered species in the year since California became the only state to require such licensing, according to a report being released this week.

Their rejection was a proposal to market a fluorescent zebra fish — the nation's first transgenic pet, now sold under the trademarked name GloFish everywhere except in California.

Even then, the Fish and Game Commission reversed its earlier outright rejection, voting in April to seek a new recommendation from experts with the Department of Fish and Game.

The department decided Austin, Texas-based Yorktown Technologies would have to submit its Florida-grown biotech fish to a full environmental assessment before it could be considered for sale to the public.

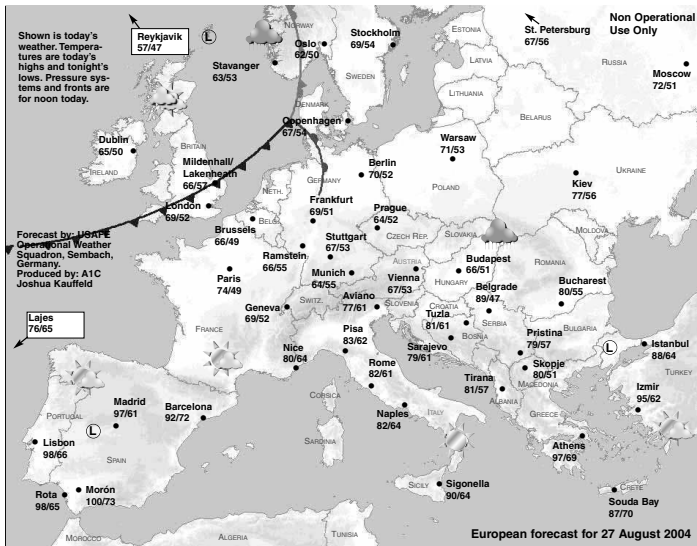
Sweet incentives

FL WEST PALM BEACH — Krispy Kreme is offering to reward students with a doughnut for every A on their report card, but the plan seems a little flaky to some officials trying to fight childhood obesity.

Under one promotion, Krispy Kreme stores will give Palm Beach County students in kindergarten through sixth grade a free doughnut for good grades. Another program has students decorate posters of doughnuts with "success sprinkles" when children meet goals. The posters can be turned in for doughnuts.

"Krispy Kreme doughnuts are very good, especially when the 'hot' lights are on, but I can't say that there's anything healthy about them," school board member Debra Robinson said Tuesday. "Can't we find something else? I mean, a doughnut?"

Stories and photos from wire services



AFRICA

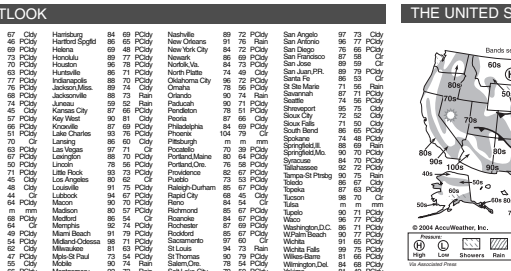
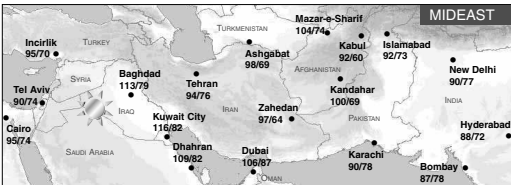
Cape Town	63	56	Mogadishu	84	72
Dakar	86	73	Nairobi	87	74
Freetown	81	73	Rabat	89	69
Antananarivo	87	68	Tripoli	88	72

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	67	54	Manila	83	79
Bahran	106	83	Mexico City	89	78
Beijing	84	60	Montreal	85	59
Berlin	89	75	Riyadh	108	84
Bermuda	85	76	Rio de Jan	79	65
Caracas	81	60	Saudi	85	74
Helsinki	84	51	Sofia	89	68
Hong Kong	86	77	Sydney	77	54
London	86	62	Tokyo	80	67

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alabama	86	73	Delaware	85	67	Idaho	85	67	North Carolina	85	67
Alaska	86	67	District of Columbia	85	67	Illinois	85	67	North Dakota	85	67
Arizona	86	67	Florida	85	67	Indiana	85	67	Oklahoma	85	67
Arkansas	86	67	Georgia	85	67	Iowa	85	67	Oregon	85	67
California	86	67	Hawaii	85	67	Kansas	85	67	Rhode Island	85	67
Colorado	86	67	Idaho	85	67	Kentucky	85	67	South Carolina	85	67
Connecticut	86	67	Illinois	85	67	Louisiana	85	67	South Dakota	85	67
Delaware	85	67	Indiana	85	67	Maine	85	67	Tennessee	85	67
District of Columbia	85	67	Iowa	85	67	Maryland	85	67	Texas	85	67
Florida	85	67	Kansas	85	67	Massachusetts	85	67	Vermont	85	67
Georgia	85	67	Kentucky	85	67	Michigan	85	67	Washington	85	67
Hawaii	85	67	Louisiana	85	67	Minnesota	85	67	West Virginia	85	67
Idaho	85	67	Maine	85	67	Mississippi	85	67	Wisconsin	85	67
Illinois	85	67	Maryland	85	67	Montana	85	67	Wyoming	85	67
Indiana	85	67	Massachusetts	85	67	Nebraska	85	67			
Iowa	85	67	Michigan	85	67	Nevada	85	67			
Kansas	85	67	Minnesota	85	67	New Hampshire	85	67			
Kentucky	85	67	Mississippi	85	67	New Jersey	85	67			
Louisiana	85	67	Montana	85	67	New Mexico	85	67			
Maine	85	67	Nebraska	85	67	New York	85	67			
Maryland	85	67	Nevada	85	67	North Carolina	85	67			
Massachusetts	85	67	New Hampshire	85	67	North Dakota	85	67			
Michigan	85	67	New Jersey	85	67	Oklahoma	85	67			
Minnesota	85	67	New Mexico	85	67	Oregon	85	67			
Mississippi	85	67	New York	85	67	Rhode Island	85	67			
Montana	85	67	North Carolina	85	67	South Carolina	85	67			
Nebraska	85	67	North Dakota	85	67	South Dakota	85	67			
Nevada	85	67	Oklahoma	85	67	Tennessee	85	67			
New Hampshire	85	67	Oregon	85	67	Texas	85	67			
New Jersey	85	67	Rhode Island	85	67	Vermont	85	67			
New Mexico	85	67	South Carolina	85	67	Washington	85	67			
New York	85	67	South Dakota	85	67	West Virginia	85	67			
North Carolina	85	67	Tennessee	85	67	Wisconsin	85	67			
North Dakota	85	67	Texas	85	67	Wyoming	85	67			
Oklahoma	85	67	Vermont	85	67						
Oregon	85	67	Washington	85	67						
Rhode Island	85	67	West Virginia	85	67						
South Carolina	85	67	Wisconsin	85	67						
South Dakota	85	67	Wyoming	85	67						
Tennessee	85	67									
Texas	85	67									
Vermont	85	67									
Washington	85	67									
West Virginia	85	67									
Wisconsin	85	67									
Wyoming	85	67									



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelex: Mostly cloudy with rain-showers late in the evening. Highs in the mid 60s, Saturday lows in the upper 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 60s. Saturday lows in the mid 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 70s to low 80s, Saturday lows in the lower 60s.

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s to lower 80s, Saturday lows in upper 40s to mid 60s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s, Saturday lows in the low 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s, Saturday lows in the mid 50s.

Hungary: Cloudy with rain. Highs in the mid 60s, Saturday lows in the low 50s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s, Saturday lows in the low 60s.

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the low 80s, Saturday lows in the low to mid 60s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper-70s, Saturday lows in the upper 50s.

Norway: Cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the low 60s, Saturday lows in the lower 50s.

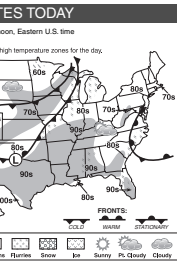
Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s to low 100s. Saturday lows in the low 70s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s to mid 90s, Saturday lows in the low 60s to low 70s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <http://www.ombach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

Sunrise (Baghdad)	Today 6:33AM	Tomorrow 6:34AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	6:32AM	6:34AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	7:36PM	7:34PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	8:22PM	8:20PM



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

FACES 'N' PLACES

Jay-Z, R. Kelly free to tour now

Jay-Z and R. Kelly are going back in time. Their planned 2002 tour never materialized because of child pornography charges against Kelly. Now they're set to open "The Best of Both Worlds" tour Sept. 30 in Chicago.

The U.S. tour, which takes its name from their 2002 album, will travel to more than 40 cities before ending in Phoenix on Nov. 28.

They appeared together last year at Jay-Z's concert at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Kelly, whose real name is Robert Sylvester Kelly, faces 14 counts of child pornography in Chicago and has pleaded innocent.

In March, prosecutors in Florida dropped all 12 child pornography charges against Kelly, 37, after a judge ruled that photos allegedly showing the R&B singer having sex with an underage girl were illegally seized.

Kelly's new album, "Happy People/U Saved Me," was released Tuesday. His hits include "Ignition," "Step in the Name of Love" and the Grammy-winning "I Believe I Can Fly."

Jay-Z, 34, is the leading nominee for the 2004 MTV Video Music Awards, with six nominations for his jarring video for "99 Problems," which depicts his own murder as a metaphor for his retirement from rapping. The awards will be presented Sunday in Miami.

McCreedy pleads innocent

Country singer Mindy McCreedy has pleaded innocent to drug charges in Tennessee.

Lawyers for McCreedy, whose hits include "Guys Do It All the Time," entered the plea Monday in Williamson County Court. The 28-year-old singer wasn't present and remains free on \$10,000 bond.

McCreedy was arrested earlier this month and charged with prescription drug fraud after authorities said she used a fake prescription to obtain the pain medicine OxyContin.

Investigators say McCreedy presented a fraudulent prescription at a pharmacy on Feb. 12, paid for the drugs and then left.

Authorities say they later learned that she wasn't a patient at the doctor's office from which the prescription purportedly originated.

Prince Charles faces discrimination charge

A woman who worked as a secretary for Prince Charles has filed a complaint against him alleging sex discrimination and unfair dismissal.

Elaine Day worked as a personal assistant during his five years in employment at Clarence House, Prince Charles' London residence, before she left earlier this year.

Paddy Harverson, communications secretary to the Prince of Wales, said Tuesday that Day's claim was filed at Croydon Employment Tribunal.

"The former employee has filed a complaint alleging unfair dismissal, sex discrimination and victimization on the grounds of sex," he said. "We will be contesting the complaint vigorously."

Hallmark fall for Duke, son

Oscar-winning actress Patty Duke and her son Mackenzie Astin both have original movies premiering on the Hallmark Channel.

Duke stars as a mother superior who helps an ex-convict solve a 30-year-old homicide in "Murder Without Conviction," which will air in September, the cable channel said Tuesday. Astin stars in "Love's Enduring Promise," the sequel to "Love Comes Softly," which premieres in November.

Astin, 31, stars as a railroad executive smitten with a frontier schoolteacher.

He won a best supporting actor Oscar in 1963 for her portrayal of Helen Keller in the film "The Miracle Worker." She won an Emmy Award in 1980 for her portrayal of Keller's teacher, Annie Sullivan, in the movie "TV version of the play.

The 57-year-old Duke also has won Emmys for "My Sweet Charlie" and "Captains and the Kings."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Zach Braff on the set of his directorial debut "Garden State," which is set in his home state of New Jersey and is loosely based on personal experiences. Braff wrote the first draft of the movie while waiting to filming the first episodes of "Scrubs."

'GARDEN STATE' not just for scrubs

Sitcom actor Braff takes turn behind camera for film set in his home state of New Jersey

BY BEN NUCKOLLS

The Associated Press

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — The Baird Community Center holds sentimental value for Zach Braff — it's where he saw his first play, when his father performed in Neil Simon's "The Prisoner of Second Avenue."

It's also surrounded by a park that exemplifies the leafy, idyllic beauty Braff finds so emblematic of the Garden State. He finds nothing ironic in the nickname of his much-maligned native soil, which also is the name of the new film that Braff stars in, wrote and directed.

Shot in and around his hometown, "Garden State" is an auspicious dramatic debut for a 29-year-old filmmaker previously known as the star of the NBC sitcom "Scrubs."

"Most people who come in and out of New Jersey go through Newark International Airport," Braff said. "And they see the environment around there, and people make jokes and it [creates a perception] that it's a gross place to live. But anyone who goes south of Exit 14 [on the New Jersey Turnpike] knows that it looks like this."

It's hard to argue with Braff after spending a day in South Orange and neighboring Maplewood, where he would introduce two free screenings of the movie. The communities are close-knit, friendly and dotted with well-manicured parks.

"Garden State," however, is hardly a valentine to Braff's hometown. He stars as Andrew Largeman, a struggling actor who returns home for his mother's funeral. In the four days that "Large" spends at home, Braff explores the complicated ways in which people in their 20s relate to the places they grew up.

"I remember going to college, and a lot of my friends had left town, and my mom had moved houses, and my memory of home was completely gone," Braff says, "but I was really homesick, so that's where I first had the feeling that I was homesick for a place that didn't even exist."

The movie follows Large as he avoids his psychiatrist father (Ian Holm), strikes up a friendship with a vivacious young woman (Natalie Portman) who's constantly lying to him, and hangs around with his old buddies, many of whom are stuck in dead-end jobs.

There's plenty of drinking, recreational drug use and gen-

eral suburban angst, including a chillingly matter-of-fact conversation about which high school friends had committed suicide.

"That was my own experience, coming home and hearing who had killed themselves and being upset by it," Braff said. "It's just horrifying in a way, and I think it really shocked me, so that's why I wrote about it."

Braff is serious and studious throughout the interview, a marked contrast from his goofy "Scrubs" persona. He rarely cracks jokes or even smiles, in part because he was weary after a month on the road promoting the movie. But it's also because he takes filmmaking very seriously.

Braff is the rare sitcom star whose first love isn't performing or making people laugh. Directing always was his goal.

After graduating from Northwestern University's film school in 1997, Braff moved to New York, but he was forced to do grunt work on music videos and commercials to support himself.

He moved to Los Angeles, living in apartments much like the one Large lives in at the beginning of the movie — undecorated, with hardly any furniture and a pile of scripts in the corner of the bedroom. He worked in a few independent films but wasn't able to make a living until he landed "Scrubs" in 2001.

But after quitting his job waiting tables, he found out it would be four months before the "Scrubs" pilot was shot. He spent the downtime writing the first draft of "Garden State."

Although he had just gotten his big break, the script was informed by the depression and frustration of life as a struggling actor.

Large walks around in a haze, reacting to news of his mother's death by falling asleep. That's because his father has prescribed him lithium along with a host of antidepressants. He leaves the drugs in L.A., however, when he goes home for the first time in nearly a decade.

This is where "Garden State" strays furthest from Braff's own experience — he's not medicated and says he has a great relationship with his parents, who have both divorced and remarried. But he thinks it speaks to his generation.

"Every other person I meet is on some sort of medication," Braff said. "Being a 20-something in 2004, it's not hard to find."

Horoscope

The moon enters Aquarius early this morning, a friendly transit propelling a fairly casual Friday. Chattering and generally making one another feel welcome must happen before any real business can take place. Don't make the mistake of thinking that small talk is unimportant. It's what makes people decide whom they want on their team.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 27) You're stronger than you've realized an important milestone — as early as Oct. 11! Romantic hopefuls could finally win you over in January. Income spikes to a high in November. Lucky love signs are Cancer or Sagittarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You're in demand socially. The more-the-merrier rule will help you get everyone in. Some pals want your undivided attention and will be jealous of any newcomers, but don't go soft. Things you see often will shine in a whole new light.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

It's a day of second chances! You can undo what was done long ago with a phone call or letter. Attempts to reconcile with a family member are particularly successful. You'll win biggest when you're risking rejection.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Your practical nature is at its best, and your solutions are brilliant. Though you've got more on your list than you can possibly do in one day, take time to relax and heal your spirit, too. Your communication with friends inspires you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) If you want to meet active people and potential companions, engage in sports for fun. Disorganized people test your patience. Couples could make a big purchase together. Be careful with oral or written agreements.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You'll be aware of how much other people's moods and whims affect your own. When a loved one smiles, your

troubles melt away. And when they're sour, you feel heaviness on your shoulders. This is because you care so much.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) There are many weird things that occur. You'll either laugh, be puzzled or both, but one thing is for sure: It's not a boring day. The way others react to events is telling. When you spot a true-blue friend, hold on to this one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Your ambition wells up inside you like a geyser ready to blow. But enthusiasm alone won't be enough to propel you toward success. You need an inventive yet sensible plan to overthrow a persistent obstacle. A Scorpio helps.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) You're the master at figuring out workable ideas. While your colleagues may be stuck rumination on pie-in-the-sky ideas, your logical approach will bring instant results. Beware of anyone who delivers a vague promise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Someone is getting weary of waiting for your decision. Tackle tough issues; action speaks louder than words. Social opportunities abound. Talk about your dream, whether or not you think anyone is interested.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Productivity is way to your boss' heart; stay late. Newcomers want desperately to be a part of your plan. Impressive credentials should be double-checked. An evening at home is cozy, romantic and economical.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

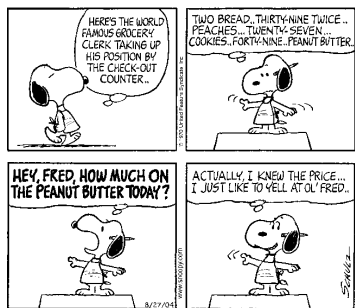
Second- and third-hand information could lead you dangerously wrong. Be sure you're getting your data from the source. You could be that rare exception to the rule tonight, so take a chance on the seemingly impossible.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your expertise is worth big bucks. Consider writing a book or sharing your knowledge through teaching or public speaking. Your love life improves when you take the time to adhere to traditional courtship rituals.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



Clavin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



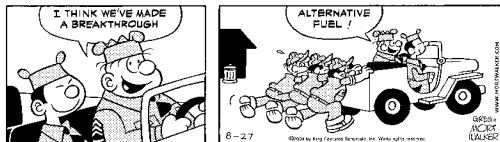
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



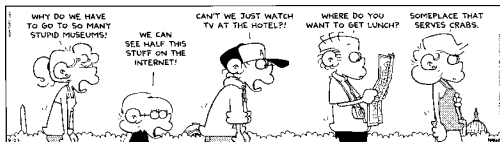
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



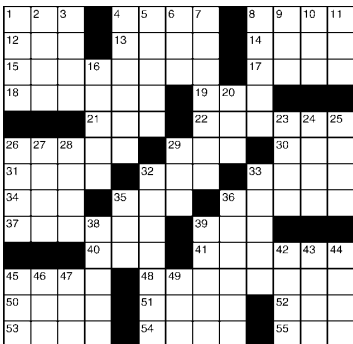
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Eccentric
4 React in horror
8 Pull an all-nighter
12 "A pox upon thee!"
13 Met melody
14 Roll call reply
15 Intrepid
17 admitting customers
18 Gold medal winner
19 O'Hare's loc.
21 Afternoon hour
22 Intrepid
26 Author Ephron
29 Forefront
30 Biz deg.
31 Racetrack boundary
32 Blanc or Brooks
33 Line of thought
34 Anger
35 Clinton blew it
36 Objects to
37 Intrepid
39 Humongous
40 Carnival venue
41 In the thick of
45 Goya's duchess
48 Intrepid
50 The Red and the Black
51 Pub orders
52 Crossword clue, at times
53 Unuttered "alas"
54 Maltese money
55 Conclusion

Down

- 1 Dispatches, slangily
3 Lose gracefully?
4 Letter opener
4 Lead one
5 Mountain ridge
6 Family member
7 Easter-related
8 Hymn presenters
9 Agent
10 Exist
11 Chaps
16 Tend a stubborn squeak
20 Coop dweller
23 Portent
24 Footnote abbr.
25 Supermarket stack
26 Plumbing answer
27 Count counterpart
28 Stead
29 Irritate
32 Re city
33 government
33 Night watch
35 Emulate
36 18-Across
36 Champagne-and-OJ drink
38 Go haywire, as a PC
39 More contemptible
42 Put one over on
43 Dazzle
44 Take care of
45 Pompous one
46 Mainlander's memento
47 Apprehend
49 Inventor Whitney

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-27

CRYPTOQUIP

T Z B KYKZII S YHQV BS
XUQHTYWM NTUICUTQEG.
MRQ'M GQCTETKQIS Z

CITEN YC KRO XZMK.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DOCUMENTARY
DETAILING YESTERDAY'S EXCITING BOXING
MATCH: "A BOUT LAST NIGHT"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals L

Hairdresser can't keep eye off TV

Dear Abby: "Mr. Eugene" has been my hairdresser for nearly 20 years. We have seen each other through divorces, deaths, recovery from alcoholism (me), and life struggles in general. Mr. Eugene used to be a great hairdresser. The problem began when he installed a little television set at his station. He keeps it on all the time and watches it almost constantly. He watches it while cutting my hair, passing every so often to pay closer attention to what's on TV.

The quality of my haircuts has started to decline, and along with it, our client-hairdresser relationship. I'm about ready to change hairdressers because I can't find the nerve to reach over and turn the darn thing off or tell him how annoying it is, and how much better a hairdresser he is when he pays full attention to what he's doing. Please print this so Mr. Eu-

gene will read it and give his clients the attention we deserve.

—**Spineless in Lexington, Ky.**
Dear Spineless: Mr. Eugene is only a hairdresser. He is not a mind reader. Since you haven't voiced an objection to his cutting and styling your hair with one eye on the boob-tube, how can he be expected to know you have a problem with it? Try this: Rather than criticize him, tell him that you would prefer that he leave the TV set off while working on you, because you miss the quality time you used to spend together. You might be surprised to find that he takes it as a compliment.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I became engaged last Christmas. I have been planning my wedding with the help of my mother and my fiancé's mother. I love them both, and they are helping to pay for my big day.

My problem is that every time

I disagree with them, they call me "Bridezilla." I don't think I'm too demanding or hard to please.

I just have ideas, tastes and expectations that may be different from my two mothers-in-law. This horrible stereotype is ruining the planning. I become devastated when they refer to me in that way, and end up giving in so I don't seem to be unreasonable.

Please help me. I am ending up with a wedding that isn't what I want. What should I do?

—**Not Bridezilla in L.A.**

Dear Not Bridezilla: It is wrong of your mother and your fiancé's mother to call you names. However, since they are helping to fund the wedding, you can't blame them for wanting a meaningful voice in the planning. If you feel your dream wedding has been hijacked, then you should politely draw the line and finance it yourself.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GOUBS

TOMIF

ZEFYRN

RAUBUE

www.jumble.com

Answer here: AND

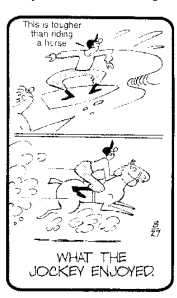
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BUMPY CREEGL JERSEY COUGAR

Answer: When the reel sold for a premium price, the jeweler said it was a — "GEM" OF A SALE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Do best to deal with distant mom

Dear Annie: I am married to "Bob," a wonderful man, and have an incredible 3-year-old son. The only problems we ever have are about family.

My mother and I never have been close. The community we live in believes she is an angel of mercy, since she donates her time and money to various charitable causes. Yet she ignores her own grandchild and treats Bob and me as if we were strangers.

Annie, I know I cannot change my mother, but I'm not sure how to deal with her. Should I continue to bring our son to family gatherings, even if it leads to squabbles with family members?

—**Hilda in Plattsburgh, N.Y.**

Dear Hilda: You're smart to realize you cannot change your mother, but that doesn't mean your son should be kept away. Continue to visit, but remember that the best way to avoid family squabbles is to disengage from the argument. Accept your mother as she is, keep those visits

Annie's Mailbox



short, and maintain your equilibrium. Your son will take his cues from you.

Dear Annie: My dear friend "Ginny" recently was married for the second time.

Upon learning of her engagement, I offered to make the wedding dress as my gift to her. I also made a dress for the groom's mother, for which I was well-paid.

While Ginny and I were shopping for material, she bought a pattern and material for her daughter's gown, too. I neglected to mention any charge for sewing the second dress. I tried to bring up the subject in the following months, but was interrupted by others and felt this was a private matter between Ginny and me.

On the day of the wedding, I delivered the dresses and helped set up tables and chairs for the ceremony. I saw Ginny pay the florist, photographer and DJ, but not me. My husband says I should have asked for payment

when she had her checkbook out, but I thought that would be tacky.

I have receipts for some small items I needed to finish the dress, and Ginny already promised to reimburse me for those. When I mail her the receipts, should I include an invoice for her daughter's dress? Or, do I chalk it up to a lesson learned?

—**Southern Seamstress**

Dear Seamstress: If you value the friendship, don't spring a surprise on Ginny by mailing an unexpected bill. She should have offered to pay for her daughter's dress, but you had many opportunities to speak up and didn't.

Pick up the phone and say: "Ginny, dear, when I mail the receipts for the additional beading, should I also send the invoice for your daughter's dress?" Her response will tell you if you'd be better off considering this an expensive lesson.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



8-27

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"I bet the Swiss won some archery medals when William Tell was alive."



Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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Raiders' Woodson says he'll be in camp next week

The Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. — Charles Woodson confirmed Wednesday night he would end his holdout and be in camp with the Oakland Raiders next week.

The four-time Pro Bowl cornerback announced his intentions in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

The Raiders placed the franchise tag on Woodson in February. With the franchise designation, he would make close to \$8.8 million this season, but Woodson hasn't signed the Raiders' tender — which he must do before negotiating another deal.

Woodson, who's entering his seventh pro season, is seeking a high-money, long-term contract and reportedly wants to be the highest paid cornerback in the NFL.

Earlier Wednesday, Raiders coach Norv Turner said he expected Woodson to be in camp next week.

Turner said he doubted Woodson would be prepared for the season opener Sept. 12 at Pittsburgh if he waited until after the final exhibition game to join the team.

Even if he reports Monday, it's unclear whether Woodson will play in the Raiders'



All-Pro linebacker Julian Peterson signed a \$6.073 million offer Wednesday tendered to him as the 49ers' franchise player.

AP

final exhibition game Thursday at home against St. Louis.

"I'd hate to answer that either way," Turner said Wednesday. "We'd have to see where he's at."

A call to Woodson's agent, Carl Poston, wasn't returned Wednesday.

Giants QB Warner to start vs. Jets

ALBANY, N.Y. — Quarterback Kurt

Warner will start for the New York Giants on Friday, but coach Tom Coughlin declined to say whether Warner or rookie Eli Manning will start the regular-season opener.

Coughlin announced Wednesday that Manning, the No. 1 pick in the draft, will get the same amount of snaps with the first-team offense against the New York Jets on Friday.

Coughlin said he'll select a starter for the opener at Philadelphia "at the right time."

LB Peterson ends holdout, signs one-year deal with 49ers

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — All-Pro linebacker Julian Peterson ended his holdout Wednesday and signed a one-year contract with the San Francisco 49ers.

Peterson, designated by the team in February as its franchise player, missed the first 28 days of training camp.

Peterson signed a \$6.073 million offer tendered to him by the team to play this season. That figure represents the average of the NFL's five highest-paid players at his position.

Peterson and his agents had been looking for a deal that would make him one of the NFL's highest-paid defenders.

India-bound Williams contacts Dolphins

MIAMI — Retired running back Ricky Williams says he contacted the Miami Dolphins this week at the request of his agent but has no plans to rejoin the team any time soon.

Williams didn't rule out a return but made it clear that given his contract and the state of the coaching staff, "it's not in my best interests to play football right now," he told the Miami Herald in a story published Wednesday night on the newspaper's Web site.

Williams has acknowledged testing positive for marijuana three times, which means he likely wouldn't be allowed to play this season, even if he decided to come out of retirement.

Williams is in Australia and said he plans to travel to India soon for a "couple of months." He said he contacted the Dolphins after they sent him a letter last week seeking repayment of \$8.6 million by Monday.

"I didn't call them to see if I could come back. I was just causing a conversation to happen," Williams said. "They sent me the letter and [my agent] told me it's in my best interests to call them."

Texas advances to U.S. title game

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Texas is two steps away from a world championship.

Chance Murski hit a grand slam and Randall Grichuk hit a three-run homer to lead Richmond, Texas, to the United States final with an 8-2 victory over Morgantown, N.C., on Wednesday night in the Little League World Series.

Texas plays the winner of the Thousand Oaks, Calif., vs. Preston, Md., game on Saturday for the championship. The world championship is Sunday.

"I'm just about as excited as you can get. I'm just emotionally drained," Texas manager Jim Michalek said.

In the second inning, Tyler Ford doubled, and Matt Daniels and Dustin Moehlig hit consecutive singles to lead the bases for Murski. Murski, hitting only .167 in the series, crushed one to left field off Dykotski Spiess (0-1) for a 4-0 lead.

"I hung in there and got that pitch," said Murski, who went 1-for-3. "I feel pretty good, but the rest of the at-bats I didn't do that well."

It didn't matter.

Grichuk, back for his second consecutive Little League World Series, added a three-run homer in the fourth to make it 7-0. It was his fourth homer of the series and sixth in two years. Grichuk is one shy of tying the career home run record shared by two players, one of whom is Pittsburgh Pirates manager Lloyd McClendon (1971).

Daniel Homann (2-0) earned his second victory of the series, allowing four hits and striking out eight.

Spiess and Eli Watson had

Little League WS

RBI's in the sixth inning for North Carolina.

"Our hitting wasn't there," North Carolina manager Alan Lail said. "They're 12-year-olds and sometimes they don't bring their entire game with them."

Last year, Saugus, Mass., scored four runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to eliminate Texas in the U.S. semifinals. This year, Texas is looking for more.

"We're one of the top four Little League teams in the whole world," Daniels said, smiling. "If you stop and think about it, it's pretty amazing."

In Wednesday's other game:

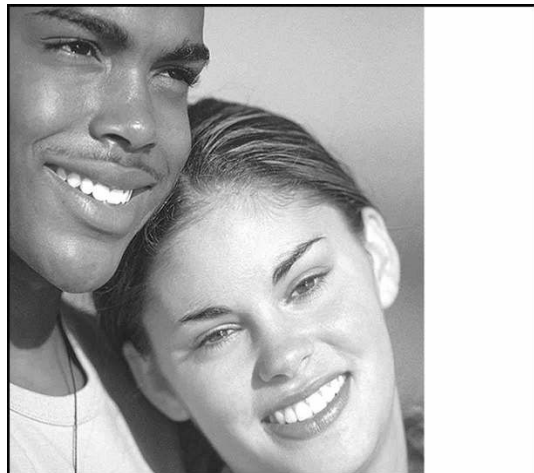
Curacao 9, Taiwan 8 (7): Jonathan Schoop had the game-tying hit in the sixth and the winning hit in the seventh to lead Willem. Willemstad, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles into the international championship game.

Curacao will play the winner of the Corundú, Panama, vs. Nuevo Leon, Mexico, game on Saturday in the championship.

Curacao tied the game with an improbable four-run sixth, sending it into extra innings before knocking out Taiwan, whose teams won 17 Little League World Series titles between 1969 and 1996.

In the seventh, Rignael Rondei singled and advanced to second base on a sacrifice off Taiwan reliever Hsu Chi-Hung. Willie Kufela hit a grounder short that Chen Hung-Tai bobbled for an error and Quincy van Blaricum followed with a bloop to Chen Hung that he again misplays.

That loaded the bases for Schoop, who singled through the hole into left.



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RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Martin takes good with bad

Financial reward balances changes for 23-year veteran of NASCAR's top series

BY LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

MBROOKLYN, Michigan ark Martin's eyes came alive and a wide grin appeared on his face when he pondered the changes he's seen since he ran NASCAR's championship series for the first time in 1981.

One moment, the 45-year-old driver longed for the good old days when he could show up at the track, work on his car, race and leave.

Then he groaned about the obligations he now has — to the media, fans, sponsors and a grueling schedule — as NASCAR has burst beyond its southern roots and become a big-time sport across the United States.

But before Martin sounded like he was complaining, he acknowledged that the drawbacks are balanced by riches.

Martin has made enough money — about \$37 million in career earnings — to live in an airport community in Daytona Beach, Florida, where his airplane is parked just a short golf cart trip away. He can fly the plane himself or have his pilot whisk him away to a race or sponsor function at any time.

"I've been fortunate to be a part of racing during what I call the simple times and also at the tail end of the huge economic growth of the sport," said Martin, leaning against a trailer before his first of two races last weekend at Michigan International Speedway. "That's why I ride the fence on what I think about the many changes."

"During the simple times, we weren't making as much money, but there wasn't as much of a demand on our time. But if my whole career was like that, I wouldn't have retired with very much."

Martin, whose 533 consecutive starts trail only two active drivers, is proud to say he's not sticking around just to pick up lucrative checks with lackluster performances.

He finished second last week at MIS, Martin's third top-three finish this month. He's one of 11 drivers with a victory this year, and he has five top-fives and 10 top-10s in 23 races.

After a strong showing in 2002 — his fourth series runner-up finish — he slipped last year with no wins and just five top-fives in 36 starts.

"I had a bad year in 2003, and I was afraid it would look like I was just hanging around," Martin said. "I didn't get much sleep for a long time. It is very important to me to be at least a top 10 contender, all the time."

Martin is 12th among NASCAR point leaders this year with 2,759, just behind Jeremy Mayfield (2,786), Kasey Kahne (2,792) and Bobby Labonte (2,799).

For the first time, NASCAR will have a championship playoff, with the top 10 drivers in the standings competing over the last 10 events for the title. The field will be set after the race on Sept. 11 in Richmond, leaving drivers just three races to secure a spot.

So what does Martin think of the major change?

"As a competitor, I don't like it," he said. "It will be a winner in the TV ratings and with fan inter-

est because there's going to be some new drama and excitement, but I personally liked it the way it was."

"TV ratings aren't a major concern of mine, but they are for NASCAR. When I'm a fan, it might be different, but I'm not done being a competitor."

Martin, who is under contract for 2005, insisted he does not have a retirement plan.

"He's a compulsive competitor," said Geoff Smith, president of Roush Racing, which has had Martin on its team for 16 years.

Jeff Burton, a former Roush teammate, said obsessive is the best description.

"I don't care if it's racing or weightlifting, he's obsessed with being the best," Burton said.

After Martin's first race 23 years ago, he struggled to find a home in NASCAR's top stock car series, racing only sporadically and failing to establish himself in the sport until he was hired in 1988 by Jack Roush.

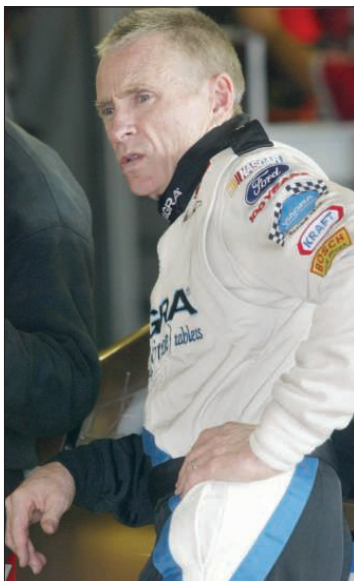
He is now a mainstay. His 34 victories trail just three active drivers, and he ranks 17th in NASCAR history. He ended a 72-race winless streak this summer at Dover.

Martin's 12-year-old son, Matt, is following his father's career path. Racing an F-150 truck, the boy led every lap in a FastKids race last weekend.

"I don't get to see him race much, and that's another down side to my schedule," Martin said.

"I do care what he does. I just want him to be the best wherever he does, whether he goes to college or goes into racing."

"I only want him to keep racing if he's enjoying it because that's what I plan to do too."



AP

NASCAR has changed in many ways since Mark Martin began racing in its top series in 1981. Though he sometimes bemoans the series' growth from its southern roots to nationwide popularity, he has been compensated with about \$37 million in career earnings — and he's got a shot at chasing a series championship this season to boot.

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 24: Sharpie 500, 1:30 a.m. CET Sunday (live), SPT.

Last race: Greg Biffle led a race-high 73 of 200 laps and easily won the GFS Marketplace 400 at Michigan International Speedway.

Last year: Kurt Busch sped away from Kevin Harvick. Busch, who was

punched by Jimmy Spencer the previous week, found himself in trouble again by spinning-out Sterling Marlin midway through the race as he tried to pass Marlin for second place, drawing thundering boos from the crowd.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Mark Martin has had a second in his last Sunday to get to 10th in 12th in points, and he'll be a 10th-place finisher in the Chase for the Cup. He has 70 points of lead, but has finished second in the last three races.

Kasey Kahne has won two consecutive races, but he's 10th in points after five Cup races at Bristol. Busch, 26, has 10 career wins and an 11th place in the standings.

Kurt Busch has won two consecutive races, but he's 10th in points after five Cup races at Bristol. Busch, 26, has 10 career wins and an 11th place in the standings.

FAST FACTS

Bill Elliott will be back in a car sponsored by McDonald's in 2004, after a two-year hiatus. He'll be driving a limited-edition with Evernham Motorsports in 2004. — Jeff Gordon ended the 2002 season with 15 wins and 15 top 10 finishes in 23 career starts at Bristol.

NexTel Cup qualifying record
Ryan Newman, 128.709 mph, 2003

NexTel Cup race record
Cale Gribben, 103.074, July 11, 1971

POINTS RACE

After 23 of 36 races

1. Jeff Gordon 3,254
2. Jimmie Johnson 3,116
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 3,115
4. Tony Stewart 3,089
5. Matt Kenseth 3,018
6. Kurt Busch 2,969
7. Elliott Sadler 2,864
8. Kevin Harvick 2,832
9. Bobby Labonte 2,799
10. Kasey Kahne 2,792
11. Jeremy Mayfield 2,786
12. Mark Martin 2,759
13. Ryan Newman 2,748
14. Dale Jarrett 2,734
15. Jamie McMurray 2,722
16. Casey Mears 2,555
17. Michael Waltrip 2,488
18. Greg Biffle 2,422
19. Rusty Wallace 2,417
20. Sterling Marlin 2,396

BUSCH SERIES

This weekend's City 250 in Bristol, Tenn., TSP-delayed, 9 a.m. CET Sat.

Last race: Kyle Busch recorded his series-leading fifth victory of the season after taking the Coca-Cola 250 at Michigan International Speedway. Busch had several leads of more than five seconds, wiped out but still beat runner-up Mark Martin by 3.81 seconds.

Last year: Michael Waltrip used a slight bump-and-run to knock Ron Hornaday out of his way for his second victory at Bristol. Waltrip also won in April 1993, two days after former NexTel Cup champion Alan Kulwicki was killed in a plane crash.

Next race: Target House 300, Sept. 4, Fontana, Calif.

INDY RACING

This week: Firestone Indy 225 at Nazareth, Pa., TSP-delayed, 3:30 a.m. CET Tuesday, Sept. 7.

Last race: Darrell Truitt shook off a potentially dangerous pit mishap and led the final 13 laps to win the Honda 200 at Fontana, Calif. Truitt, 45, Franchitti's fuel man, Mike Miller, had trouble getting the hose disconnected from the car and was clipped by the rear tire after the standings and gave Toyota its first series championship by beating Sam Hornish Jr. by 0.169 seconds.

Next race: Delphi Indy 300, Sept. 12, Joliet, Ill.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

Last race: Bobby Hamilton used a high pass to get over David Starr and won the 250-mile, TSP-delayed Toyota Tundra 200 at Nashville Super Speedway. Hamilton, 35, won the 15th on his way to claiming his fourth win of the season by 0.759 seconds.

Next race: Craftsman Truck 200, Sept. 8, Richmond, Va.

CHAMP CARS

This week's Grand Prix of Montreal. **Last race:** Sebastian Bourdais recovered from a bump on the first turn with teammate Bruno Junqueira, worked his way through the field and passed Paul Tracy with 10 laps left to win the Centrix Financial Grand Prix of Denver on Aug. 15. It was the fifth victory this season for Bourdais, who widened his series lead to 96 points over Junqueira after a later pit stop to beat Alex Taglianini, who led 24 of the 75 laps.

Last race: Michael Jourdain won the Montreal Indy after a late race battle with 2003 champion, Gil de Ferris, and Laguna Seca, Calif., on Sept. 10.

FORMULA ONE

This week: Belgian Grand Prix at Spa-Francorchamps. **Last race:** Michael Schumacher won the Hungarian Grand Prix and set another record by becoming the first F1 driver to win 12 victories in a season. He can clinch his seventh championship at Belgium.

Last year: No race. **Next race:** Italian GP, Sept. 12, Monza.

Touching 'em all

Anaheim's DaVanon homers in seventh to complete club's first cycle since 1991 and majors' sixth of year

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Jeff DaVanon walked to the plate in the seventh inning, fully aware that he was a home run away from history.

"I'd be lying if I said I didn't know," the Anaheim Angels outfielder said.

DaVanon sent a pitch from Scott Sullivan over the right-field wall, becoming the first Angels player in 13 years to hit for the cycle in a 21-6 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday night.

DaVanon hit a two-run double in the third inning against Mike Wood (2-4), a triple in the fourth, an RBI single in the fifth and a leadoff homer in the seventh to become the fourth player in club history to hit for the cycle.

"This is a very special night," said DaVanon, who kept the line-up card that was taped to the dugout wall. "This was definitely one thing I've tried to achieve in my career. I know that was very hard to do. I had one in A-ball, but it doesn't really count, I guess."

It was the first by an Angels player since Dave Winfield at Kansas City on June 24, 1991. Jim Fregosi did it twice and Dan Ford also accomplished the feat.

"(Teammate) Robby Quinlan told me, 'You've got to go for it,'" DaVanon said. "So I swung as hard as I could and it worked out. It's kind of like a no-hitter, so other than that, nobody really said anything."

DaVanon, who drove in four runs, is the sixth player to hit for the cycle this season, joining Milwaukee's Chad Moeller, Pittsburgh's Daryle Ward, Philadelphia's David Bell, the New York Mets' Eric Valent and Texas' Mark Teixeira.

DaVanon wasn't the Angels' only offensive star. Jose Molina hit his first career grand slam, and Garret Anderson had five RBIs and three hits, including a three-run homer. Darin Erstad and Vladimir Guerrero had three hits each, and Erstad scored four runs.

In other AL games Wednesday:

Red Sox 11, Blue Jays 5: David Ortiz homered twice and drove in four runs in support of Curt Schilling (16-6). Manny Ramirez hit his AL-leading third homer and Orlando Cabrera also went deep as the visiting Red Sox cut the New York Yankees' AL East lead to 5½ games.

Schilling and Oakland's Mark Mulder (17-4) are the only AL pitchers with 16 or more victories. Schilling allowed one run and seven hits in 6½ innings with nine strikeouts.

Indians 4, Yankees 3: Coco Crisp dove head first for a go-ahead bunt single in the eighth that helped end the host Indians' ninth-inning losing streak.

Cleveland trailed 3-2 when Tom Gordon (6-4) walked Ben Broussard and Casey Blake to

AL Roundup

start the eighth. Jody Gerut sacrificed both runners over and Ronnie Belliard's sacrifice fly tied it. Crisp then laid down a drag bunt past Gordon, diving head first to barely beat second baseman Enrique Wilson's throw.

Athletics 3, Orioles 0: Marco Scutaro hit a three-run homer off B.J. Ryan (3-4) with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, sending the A's to their third straight win and handing Baltimore its season-high ninth loss in a row.

Tigers 5, White Sox 4: Marcus Thames drove in three runs, Nate Robertson (11-7) allowed one run and eight hits in eight innings and the host Tigers sent Chicago to its sixth loss in seven games.

Twins 8, Rangers 5: Minnesota's No. 9 hitter, Luis Rivas, had a double and triple off Ryan Drese (11-7), then homered against Carlos Almanzar in the eighth.

Devil Rays 6, Mariners 5: Aubrey Huff drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI ground-out in the ninth and visiting Tampa Bay completed its first series sweep of the Mariners.

Seattle (46-79) fell a season-low 33 games under .500 and was swept for the 10th time.



A squirrel darts past the Cleveland Indians dugout as manager Eric Wedge watches Wednesday night's game against the New York Yankees. The squirrel ran onto the field in the third inning and stayed the rest of the evening, causing several delays as it dashed around the field, entertaining a Jacobs Field crowd of 30,605. "It was the Rally Squirt. He was our secret weapon," Cleveland outfielder Coco Crisp said after the Indians scored twice in the eighth inning to win 4-3 to end a nine-game losing streak.

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Barry backfire

Marlins' intentional walk of Bonds, four balls to Pierzynski spell doom

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Walking Barry Bonds intentionally to load the bases in the 10th inning turned out to be the wrong move for Florida because Ruddy Sanchez then walked pinch-hitter A.J. Pierzynski on four pitches.

Pierzynski's walk forced home the tiebreaking run in the San Francisco Giants' 6-5 victory over the Marlins on Wednesday night. It was just his 14th walk in 397 plate appearances.

"The last person in the world to walk in that situation is probably me," he said. "I just didn't swing, which is hard for me, because I always swing."

Not so for Bonds, who was intentionally walked three times. His 94 intentional passes are 26 more than the previous major league record he set two years ago. He has 181 walks overall, 17 shy of his 2003 record.

"You're damned if you do, and damned if you don't," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said. "You can't take a chance with that guy. He didn't beat us with a walk. You've got to get the next guy out."

Jim Brower (7-6) pitched two scoreless innings and Dustin Hernandez threw a hitless 10th for his sixth save as San Francisco remained one game behind Chicago, the NL wild-card leader. Sanchez (1-1) lost as the Marlins fell six back.

Cubs 4, Brewers 2: Corey Patterson hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth at Wrigley Field. Mark Grudzielanek led off the ninth against Luis Vizcaino (4-4) with a fly ball down the left

NL Roundup

right-field line and took third when Brady Clark's relay went past second base for an error. First base umpire Mark Wegner ruled it a fair ball, and replays were inconclusive. Brewers manager Ned Yost argued and was ejected.

LaTroy Hawkins (3-4) allowed Chris Maguire's RBI double with two outs in the ninth.

Braves 8, Rockies 1: Chipper Jones homered twice and matched his career high with five RBIs for host Atlanta. Jones is batting .346 in August with 10 homers and 25 RBIs.

Eli Marrero also homered off Jeff Francis (0-1), who gave up six runs, six hits and three homers in his major league debut.

Pirates 2, Diamondbacks 1: At Pittsburgh, Jack Wilson and Jason Bay hit consecutive homers in the seventh off Randy Johnson (2-12), who pitched a three-hitter for his fourth complete game but lost. He struck out 11 and walked none.

Cardinals 6, Reds 5: Albert Pujols and Jim Edmonds hit two-run homers and pinch-runner Reggie Sanders scored the go-ahead run for host St. Louis in the ninth on a wild pitch by Joe Valentine (1-2). Julian Javier (6-4), pitching while his 10-day suspension for using a foreign substance on balls is under appeal, got one out for the win.

Expos 6, Dodgers 3: Brian Schneider broke a 3-3 tie with a three-run homer in the sixth at



Atlanta's Chipper Jones is greeted by Marcus Giles (22) after hitting a three-run homer against Colorado on Wednesday night. It was Jones' second homer of the game.

Montreal, which connected four times off Jose Lima (11-4). Brad Wilkerson hit a leadoff homer in the first, and Tony Batista and Jorge Rivera also homered off Lima.

Montreal manager Frank Robinson got his 900th career victory.

Padres 4, Mets 0: Brian Lawrence (13-10) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the first and pitched a six-hitter for his second straight complete game. Host New York has lost four in a row.

Astros 7, Phillies 4: Jeff Kent's second homer of the game, a three-run shot in the eighth off Felix Rodriguez (5-7) following Lance Berkman's tying single, gave the host Astros a sweep of the season series.

Widro faces knee operation

The Associated Press

MONTREAL — Montreal Expos second baseman Jose Vidro will have knee surgery on Sept. 8 to repair recurring patellar tendinitis in his right knee and will miss the rest of the season.

Vidro, a three-time All-Star, chose to undergo the procedure after a recent MRI on his knee, which has bothered him over the last two seasons and caused him to miss four straight starts, including Wednesday's game against Los Angeles.

"At the end of the day, it was me who had to deal with the pain," said Vidro, who will remain on the active roster until Sept. 1. "The doctor explained it perfectly. He basically said I was going to continue if I didn't get it fixed, so I think that says it all right there."

Through Tuesday, Vidro — who signed a four-year, \$30-million contract extension May 14 — was hitting .294 with 24 doubles, 14 homers and 60 RBIs in 110 games.

Vidro could probably play still but where we are in the standings right now we want to be able to get a headstart on next year for

Briefs

him," Expos general manager Omar Minaya said.

The operation will be performed by knee specialist Dr. Richard Steadman in his Steadman-Hawkins Clinic in Vail, Colo. Expos team physician Dr. Bruce Thomas said Steadman gave a 90 percent success rate for the procedure.

"We've tried medications and physical therapy," Thomas said. "Jose's been very good about his rehab. He just hasn't made the kind of progress where he can play without pain on a constant basis."

Thomas said the procedure would require splitting the patellar tendon and removing a small area of scar tissue and chronic inflammatory tissue.

Thomas estimated Vidro's rehab would take about four months.

Orioles release Garcia

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Baltimore Orioles released outfielder Karim Garcia on Wednesday

night and sent outfielder Darnell McDonald to Oakland of the International League.

The Orioles also recalled outfielder Tim Lincecum Jr. and infielder Jose Leon from Oakland.

Baltimore obtained Garcia, who has spent parts of 10 seasons in the big leagues with eight teams, from the New York Mets in exchange for pitcher Mike DeJean on July 19. Garcia hit .212 in 23 games with Baltimore.

Mets sign Buchanan

NEW YORK — The New York Mets signed free agent outfielder Brian Buchanan on Wednesday and optioned relief pitcher Heath Bell to Norfolk of the International League.

Buchanan started the season with San Diego, batting .200 with two home runs and six RBIs in 38 games. He refused an outright assignment to Portland of the Pacific Coast League on Tuesday, becoming a free agent. He is a career .259 hitter in 344 games with Minnesota and San Diego.

Bell was recalled from Norfolk on Tuesday and pitched two scoreless innings against San Diego before being returned to the Mets' Class AAA affiliate a day later.

Lawmaker vetoes bonds

The Associated Press

McLEAN, Va. — As baseball officials met with backers hoping to lure the Montreal Expos to Northern Virginia, a second key lawmaker said he opposes a plan to finance a ballpark with bonds backed by the "moral obligation" of the state.

Senate Finance Chairman John Chichester said a private business such as a baseball club should not benefit from the state's moral obligation bonds, which have traditionally been used for water quality projects and other public works.

Moral obligation bonds "were not developed to help private enterprise," Chichester, a Republi-

can who also is the Senate's president pro tempore, said in a telephone interview Tuesday. "Private enterprise has to stand on its own."

Chichester's opposition means that the two most powerful legislators in the Virginia General Assembly — he and House Speaker William Howell — are on record against a key component of the plan to build a \$442 million ballpark near Dunes International Airport.

Brian Hammigan, spokesman for the Virginia Baseball Stadium Authority, a quasi-state agency trying to lure the Expos to Northern Virginia, said use of the so-called "moral obligation" bonds is crucial to the ballpark financing plan.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Ukrainians stripped of medal

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The Ukrainian four-woman rowing team was stripped of its bronze medal Thursday after one member tested positive for a banned drug, the IOC said.

It was the fourth medal lost because of doping.

Australia finished fourth and will now get the bronze. Germany won the gold, and Britain took the

silver.

Olena Olefirenko was part of Ukraine's four-woman crew that finished third in lightweight sculls on Sunday.

Olefirenko was given Isonodon, which contained the banned substance ethamivan, by her team doctor, the IOC said. Olefirenko reported that she took the drug when she was tested after the race, but didn't realize it was banned.

If one member of a rowing crew fails a drug test, the entire crew loses the medal.

A weightlifter from Hungary also was expelled from the Games on Thursday for failing to provide a urine sample after his event, the International Olympic Committee said.

Zoltan Kovacs, who finished last in the 105-kilogram class, became the 10th weightlifter punished for doping.



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United States' Shawn Crawford, left, embraces Bernard Williams after winning gold and silver, respectively, in the 200-meter finals on Thursday. United States' Justin Gatlin, not shown, won the bronze.

Crawford leads U.S. sweep in men's 200

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Shawn Crawford and two teammates capped a big night for Americans at the track, sweeping the 200-meter medals despite a rowdy crowd that booed loudly when the U.S. sprinters were announced before the race.

In a race missing disgraced Greek hero and defending Olympic champion and Kostas Kentaris, Crawford ran a personal-best 19.79 seconds. That was just good enough to edge Bernard Williams, who tied his personal best of 20.01 seconds for silver. Justin Gatlin, the 100 champion, won bronze in 20.03.

Dwight Phillips led a 1-2 American finish in the men's long jump, with NCAA champion John Moffitt taking the silver.

The start of the 200 was delayed for four minutes because spectators were booing, whistling in derision and chanting Kentaris' name and "Hellas, Hellas" — the Greek word for Greece.

The whistles were loudest when the three U.S. sprinters were announced.

Olympic Stadium was packed, in large part because Greeks thought they would be watching Kentaris, who withdrew from the Athens Games after missing a drug test.

Crawford and Williams were doing a victory lap, draped together in an American flag, when Phillips climbed the victory stand to accept his gold medal. The sprinters stopped on the track as "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played.

The victory by Crawford, who

Track and field

was unusually subdued after the finish, gave controversial coach Trevor Graham a sweep of the men's short sprints.

Crawford and Gatlin are training partners under Graham, who acknowledged on the night of Gatlin's 100-meter victory that he was the coach who sent a syringe of a mystery steroid to anti-doping authorities last year — giving momentum to the drug scandal that has swept the sport.

On Wednesday, Marion Jones returned quickly to the Olympic scene she dominated four years ago in Sydney, qualifying for the finals in the long jump. Afterward, she talked and laughed with reporters just like the old days — before the U.S. Anti-Doping Association began investigating her.

Allen Johnson was there, too, trying to explain what had caused his disastrous fall in the 110-meter hurdles preliminaries. "It's only the second time I've ever fallen in my career," he said. "The other was a couple of years ago in South Africa. There's nothing I can do now but watch and cheer for everybody else."

Allison Spinks, 18, took silver in the 200 meters in a world junior record of 22.18 seconds, then skipped the customary celebration lap.

"Running fast is a long process. I'll just have to be patient," said Felix, who only made it to the quarterfinals at last year's world championships. "I'm gradually accepting the fact that I'm the future of USA women's sprinting."

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Baseball players pursue other pastimes

No major leaguers, no Team USA means little interest in States

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

For most major leaguers, the Olympic baseball tournament might as well have been on the moon. Cuba's 6-2 victory over Australia in Wednesday's gold medal game didn't have many of them in front of their televisions.

"I don't think anybody's paying attention," the New York Mets' Mike Cameron said. "The Americans aren't playing — it's no fun."

With the coverage on MSNBC and the Yankees on the road for most of the Olympics, shortstop Derek Jeter said there was no way he could tune in to the baseball because that channel wasn't available in the team's hotel.

Four years ago, with a group of minor leaguers managed by Tom Lasorda, the United States won the gold medal in the Sydney Olympics. But the defending champions were denied a trip to Athens by a 2-1 loss to Mexico in a qualifier last year in Panama.

"I think it's ridiculous we're not represented," Houston outfielder Lance Berkman said. "I haven't seen any of it. But we've got our own race going here, and we're pretty involved in that."

Nearly all of a dozen Major League Baseball owners surveyed last week said they hadn't watched any of the Olympic baseball, although most said they had seen parts of the Athens Games.

Sandy Alderson, executive vice

president of baseball operations in the commissioner's office, went to the start of the tournament, returned for the owners' meetings in Philadelphia, then went straight back to Greece.

Very few major league teams thought enough of the tournament to send scouts, with Atlanta, the Chicago Cubs and San Diego among the exceptions. And San Diego said the talent varied in the eight-team field, which also included Australia, Canada, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and Taiwan. The impression is very few of the players could make it to the majors.

Major League Baseball is opposed to allowing its players to participate in the Olympics.

"I don't really see it because you can't stop a pennant race," Commissioner Bud Selig said this week.

Instead, management and the players' association are planning a 16-team World Cup in March 2006. Japan, however, isn't sure whether it wants to participate in a tournament controlled by Major League Baseball.

As for the Olympics, another group of minor leaguers will be sent to qualify in 2007 for the Beijing baseball tournament the following year — unless there is no baseball tournament.

IOC President Jacques Rogge said that baseball's status will be reviewed after the Athens Games to determine whether the sport should remain for 2008.

Spain: Shots start to drop for U.S. men in quarters

SPAIN, FROM BACK PAGE

Marbury's six three-point bounces the record of five set by Reggie Miller against China in 1996, and his scoring total passed the mark of 30 points shared by Charles Barkley (1992 vs. Brazil) and Adrian Dantley (1976 vs. Yugoslavia). Lisa Leslie holds the overall U.S. Olympic record with 35 points (1996 vs. Japan).

Spain's roster included 16 points, Carlos Boozer had 12 and Lamar Odom 11 for the Americans, who advanced to the semifinals against the winner of the Argentina-Greece game.

Gasol led Spain with 29 points but was held to just four in the fourth quarter by a tenacious American defensive effort, which quieted a pro-Spanish crowd of 14,500 that included Spain's King Juan Carlos.

"It was said that the public supports the weaker team. I think in this case the public was solidly behind the stronger team because we were the stronger team," said Pesquera, who also complained that the officials allowed the Americans to get away with multiple traveling violations.

"I think this game was played under NBA rules, not FIBA rules," he said.

Pesquera was also upset Brown called a timeout with 23 seconds left and the Americans leading by 11 points. He let the U.S. coach know it as they left the court.

"I had — and I stress the word 'had' — a lot of respect," said Pesquera, who smirked and shook his head when he heard Brown explain that he tried to rescind the timeout. "Dean Smith would have never done anything like that."

Brown said: "Hopefully I'll learn to handle these situations, which are new to me, a little bit better."

Duncan scored the Americans' first five points and blocked Spain's first shot, but he was on the bench just 4½ minutes into the quarter and stayed there for the rest of the first half after picking up two fouls. The U.S. team made four of its first five three-point attempts, and the first quarter ended in a 25-25 tie.

In a seesaw second quarter, the Americans went ahead by eight points, feeding off the defensive energy of Dwyane Wade, before Spain rallied with an 11-0 run. The United States led 44-43 at halftime despite giving up 18 points to Gasol and being called for 14 of the game's 19 fouls.

Marbury hit a pair of threes early in the third quarter, and Brown took a risk by leaving Duncan in after he picked up his third foul with 5:22 left. Marbury reached the 21-point mark on a three-pointer that gave the U.S. team a 63-56 lead.

A 7-0 run by Spain tied the game, but Carmelo Anthony erased the quarter with a three-pointer that gave the Americans a 74-67 lead.

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SPORTS



Marlins' free pass to Bonds proves to be costly as Giants walk away with victory, Page 28

No reign for Spain

Marbury scores U.S.-record 31 in quarterfinal win over top seed

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Larry Brown was right. The Americans started hitting their jump shots, and suddenly they look as if they might be the team to beat in Athens.

Stephen Marbury broke the U.S. men's Olympic record with 31 points, helping to beat Spain 102-94 in the quarterfinals Thursday and transform a team that had spent the first 1½ weeks missing jumpers.

"Stephen shot the ball like Stephen today," Lamar Odom said.

After spending 90 minutes working on his shot on the team's day off, Marbury made six of his team's 12 three-pointers and was a big reason the previously undefeated Spaniards are now out of medal contention. They weren't happy about it.

As the teams left the court, Spanish coach Mario Pesquera and Brown yelled and pointed at each other about a late U.S. timeout, and they had to be separated by their assistants.

In the U.S. team's first five games, Marbury scored only 21 points, missing 24 of 30 shots. The Americans lost two of those games: an embarrassing blowout to Puerto Rico to open the Olympics and against Lithuania in the final seconds.

Against Spain, Marbury played spectacularly, and the Americans finally resembled U.S. teams from the past three Olympics — not letting a large foul disparity rattle them, knocking down their free throws and surpassing 100 points for the first at these games.

"We've been playing against so much zone, it doesn't really matter anymore," Marbury said. "We're starting to like playing against zones."

The Americans were 12-for-22 on three-pointers after shooting a tournament-low 24 percent in their first five games. Brown, though, had insisted for the past week that it was just a matter of time before the Americans started hitting their shots.

"They were very good on threes. That was something new in this tournament," Spain's Pau Gasol said. "They looked motivated, and it'll be hard to beat them if they keep playing like that."



Spain's Pau Gasol, left, attempts to dunk as Tim Duncan of the U.S. defends in this photo taken through the backboard during Thursday's men's basketball quarterfinal in Athens. Gasol led Spain with 29 points, but was held to four in the final quarter as the U.S. won 102-94.

Medal count

Leaders after 224 of 230 medal events in the 2004 Olympics through Thursday, Aug. 26.

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	25	29	23	77
Russia	15	19	22	56
China	24	16	12	52
Australia	16	11	16	43
Japan	15	9	10	34
Germany	9	11	13	33
France	10	7	9	26
Britain	7	8	10	25
Italy	9	6	8	23
South Korea	7	10	5	22

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U.S. women beat defending champ Australia for water polo bronze

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Despite changes over the years, NASCAR veteran Martin still finds racing rewarding

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Four-time Pro Bowl CB Woodson
ends holdout, announces he'll report to Raiders camp next week

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Texas rolls over North Carolina, advances to U.S. final in Little League World Series

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